

BAY AREA REPORTER

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Parade Route Turned Around

Freedom Parade to Start at Castro; Street Construction Forces Change

by Allen White

This year's mammoth Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day Parade got a jolt from the city this week. Castro and Market streets will be the starting point for the 1988 parade. The complete change in the route of the annual parade is being made because several blocks of Market Street are to be closed from May until Thanksgiving.

Douglas Conrad, co-chair of the Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day Parade Committee, confirmed that the route had been changed. He said the parade will begin at 11 a.m. on Sunday, June 26. The route will take the parade down Market Street and into the Civic Center.

Conrad said the route change has been approved by the board and membership of the parade committee, which is the official sponsor of the day's events. He said the police have approved the route, though it still must be approved by the Board of Supervisors.

The dramatic change in the route will mean that marchers will most likely assemble on side streets in the Castro. Some marches that have moved in previous years through the Castro have also used Dolores Park as an assembly point.

Those building floats for the parade will be faced with the challenge of constructing units that can safely go down the Market Street hill. The assembly site for the floats has not yet been finalized.

Though final details were not available, it is known that members of the parade committee have been working for several months to finalize the route of the parade. Conrad said, "We did not want to change the route. The

route from the Castro was our first choice. We will still be able to use the grandness of Market Street, as opposed to Folsom Street. We want to show we are a part of San Francisco."

"Coming from the Castro, our home, to the center of our city we felt was appropriate," he said. Consideration was given to other routes, including Mission Street, Folsom Street, and the possibility of taking the parade route up Geary Street and down Polk to City Hall for the celebration and rally.

Jennifer Roberts, the other co-chair of the parade committee, said, "I think it will lend us a space to be more celebratory. We have been focusing on some very hard issues including AIDS in the last few years. I think we have to remember to give ourselves space to celebrate who we are."

The closing of Market Street will begin on May 1 and is scheduled to last until Thanksgiving. Streetcar tracks will be replaced, new pedestrian islands will be in-

(Continued on page 2)



Go Back! You're Going the Wrong Way! — This year the parade will start at Castro and Market, not downtown. (Photo: M. Hicks)

Today

Red Tape Snags Benefits for People With ARC: Social Security Administration delays and how to get past them, page 13.

Our House: How will Bay Area population growth affect the Castro? See page 17.

Get Off My Dress! Dennis McMillan defends our diversity on page 16.

Volunteers Still Needed for Castro March: for details, see page 20.

Sharon Bretz Tapped For Fire Commission

Agnos Urges Reform for SFFD

by Allen White

Sharon Bretz's appointment to the Fire Commission is the first of several commission appointments expected from the gay and lesbian community in the next few weeks by Mayor Art Agnos. Bretz, 43, is the issues chair of the Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club.

Bretz is an adult probation officer who holds a doctorate of law from American College of Law. She is the founder of the Western Addition Neighborhood Association and has served as a member of the Mayor's Child Sexual Trauma Advisory Committee.

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Sharon Bretz

Court Orders Comstock Out

Posh Club Closes Doors; Renovation Costs Too Much

by Ray O'Loughlin

The Comstock Club, the elegant scene of many community fundraisers and receptions, has closed its doors and been ordered to vacate its Sutter Street premises by May 6. San Francisco Superior Court Judge Lucy McCabe ruled April 7 that the Comstock had to leave for failing to pay the \$25,000 monthly rent on the building since January. The summary judgment was in response to a motion for unlawful detainer by the building's owner, Evans Pacific Realty.

In an April 15 letter to club members, Bob O'Neal, chair of the board of directors for Gemini Management Corp., which operated the club, wrote, "It is with great sadness that I must an-

nounce the closing of the Comstock Mansion.

"It breaks our hearts to see what started as an exciting club, with leadership from outstanding

(Continued on page 2)



One of the great ladies of San Francisco is closed up.

(Photo: S. Savage)

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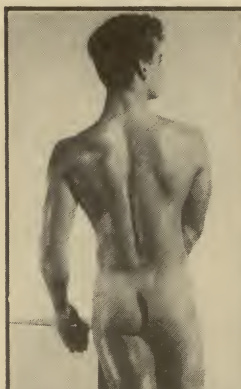
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(Continued from page 1)

Comstock

members of the community, lose its flagship," wrote O'Neal.

Because of the financial drain caused by the correction of what Gemini's attorney William Gwire described as "massive problems" with the building's structure, the company was "unable to conclude the purchase of the property."

John Schmidt, president of Gemini Management, told Bay Area Reporter that the company had refused to pay the rent on the premises after negotiations broke down on a proposed settlement to a 1986 lawsuit Gemini had brought against Evans Pacific Realty.

According to Schmidt, when Gemini took over the mansion in 1984 in a lease-option-to-purchase agreement, it was discovered to have serious defects that city building codes required be corrected: "We did not receive what we had purchased," said Schmidt. "A lot of work needed to be done. There was a delay of eight months before we could begin work on the club."

Gemini sued Evans Pacific for fraud. "We discovered defects in the property that were concealed from inspections," said Gwire. "What this suit is about is whether or not Evans Pacific knew, or should have known, about the defective conditions."

Gwire estimated that correction of those problems added at least \$1 million to the cost of renovation of the Victorian mansion. That lawsuit continues through the courts despite the eviction of the club, he said.

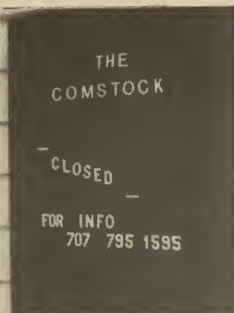
Speaking for Evans Pacific, attorney James Robertson said he believed the 1986 suit had reached a settlement which Schmidt had signed late last year.

"Evans Pacific has been interested in working something out whereby the rent would be paid on the building," said Robertson.

"We were hoping for discussion with the members—not the management—if they have the interest in maintaining the club," he added.

SUIT ALMOST SETTLED

The settlement under discussion last November had proposed a rent reduction to cover some of the added costs of repairs, said Gwire. But, he said, Evans Pacific refused to grant any rent reduction.



According to Gwire, Schmidt had tentatively signed a draft agreement with Evans Pacific. The Gemini board of directors, however, rejected the settlement proposal as inadequate.

With no reduction in rent and no reimbursement for the costs, Gemini "was not in a position to pay the rent," said Gwire. And because Gemini had to use its funds to correct defects, it did not have the funds to conclude the purchase of the building," said Gwire.

Robertson said Comstock managers told him they could not pay the rent. But Schmidt said that wasn't the real issue. "The

club never was able to pay the rent out of receipts," he said, "but that was never a problem." Gemini subsidized the Comstock with its other properties.

Gwire said Gemini had asked the court to allow the Comstock to stay in the building until the 1986 lawsuit was settled. "The court agreed, but said we had to continue to pay \$25,000 a month in rent," he said.

Schmidt speculated that Evans Pacific wanted to "leverage out" the Comstock so that a new tenant could be moved into the luxurious quarters, enabling the realtor to reap a windfall profit. But Evans Pacific said they had no new tenant lined up.

Schmidt's immediate concern was what to do with 16,000 square feet filled with antiques, furnishings, artwork, and equipment by May 6. The Comstock Club operated two bars, five dining rooms, a full gym, and other facilities for members.

"It's all hit so suddenly, I don't know what's to happen," he said.

Although the club was ordered to leave its 1409 Sutter St. location, Gemini Management could relocate. Schmidt said no decision had yet been made on re-opening elsewhere.

The club employed 16 people, who are now out of work. They will receive severance pay and all vacation pay earned, said Schmidt. "I regret we couldn't give them more notice," he said. Negotiations had gone on until April 14.

Membership fees and security deposits will be refunded, said Schmidt. Full deposits will be returned. Membership fees will be refunded, depending on the terms of each individual membership. The club opened in 1986 with 300 members.

(Continued from page 1)

Parade

stalled, and crosswalks will be redesigned at major intersections between 3rd and 9th streets. Though Muni traffic will flow on the street, no private traffic will be allowed on Market Street, and cross traffic at times will be limited to one lane.

The Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day Parade has for over a decade used a route that began at the foot of Market Street and turned into the Civic Center. It is one of the largest annual events presented in San Francisco. In recent years over 200,000 people have gathered on Market Street and in the Civic Center to participate.

Because of the route change, this year's parade and celebration will appear totally different. It is a change that will most likely reflect the changes in the gay community. "We are trying to build on the theme of unity from

last year," said Conrad. "We expect to be talking to store owners and merchants on the parade route," he said.

The male co-chair of this year's event was to have been Bill Thrasher. Thrasher died in March of AIDS, and his tasks were assumed by Conrad. "We have all the committees in place, but we need more people to make it happen," he said.

Roberts noted changes in the corporate structure for 1988. "This year," she said, "we have a wide cross-section of our community on the board, with many people of color. Also, most of our committee chairs are also board members. We have a good working board, which allows the committee heads to have a larger overview of the entire activities."

Office manager Kitty Tsui said the need for volunteers is as crucial this year as in the past. The Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day Parade Committee is a grouping

of several subcommittees that work on every aspect of the day's activities, from staging to child care and from security to press relations. Conrad said, "We can always use help on the parade. Everyone who works on it adds something. We need people who have skills to make the parade visible in making posters and for our publication."

The next general membership meeting is Sunday, May 1, at 5 p.m. at 1519 Mission St., which is the San Francisco Band Foundation building.

The change in the parade route comes on the tenth anniversary of the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band & Twirling Corps. It will have been ten years since the band made its debut under the direction of the late Jon Sims. This year the group is encouraging members from former years to march in the parade as it starts its second decade.

(Continued from page 1)

Commission

Commenting on her appointment, Bretz said, "I happen to be a gay woman, but that wasn't the only reason I was picked to be a commissioner. I have a strong reputation for being insightful and being able to handle difficult situations. That is part of the reason I applied for the Fire Commission, because it has had a lot of problems, and I like to solve problems and set policy."

Talking about the particular racial problems which plague the fire department, Bretz said, "I think all of the commissioners are sensitive to minorities, and that is why they were selected." She said she believes the commission is "a representation of all types of people who are qualified

to bring to this commission the strength and the insight that is needed to implement the consent decree and to see that we bring this commission back to a professional status."

Agnos' Deputy Press Secretary Scott Shafer said, "There have been many qualified gay men and lesbians who we are anxious to bring into the process. In the very near future, the commission appointments will be made known." The announcements are expected to become increasingly frequent in the next two weeks.

Agnos praised the newly appointed Fire Commission. He explained, "What I wanted to do was find the very best commission for this city and a balanced team that would reflect the values and the policy that I want for my

administration."

Agnos added that "this new chief, this new commission president, and this entire commission represent the kind of values and policies that I stood for in my election and that my administration will stand for in the next four years."

Agnos praised the SFFD's ability in the line of duty. He added, however, that "if the department is to progress to new levels of professionalism and rid itself of the image of racism and the lapses of conduct that divide and tarnish it, it must take firm and positive steps to bring women and minorities into the department and to instill discipline, accountability, and a renewed sense of honor, pride, and respect."

Kellogg to Review Ad Called 'Violent'

Company Defends Cereal Commercial But Will Re-Examine Its Content

by Rex Wockner

CHICAGO—The Coalition Against Media/Marketing Prejudice (CAMMP) has convinced the Kellogg Corporation of Battle Creek, Michigan, to re-open its review process on a TV commercial for Nut 'n Honey cereal. The group maintains the commercial promotes anti-gay violence. CAMMP's Kellogg action follows a successful campaign against Stroh's beer which resulted in apologies and concessions from the brewery.

The Kellogg ad consists of a series of sketches where the words "Nut 'n Honey" (a breakfast cereal) are repeatedly misunderstood as "Nothin', honey." In the final short sketch of the commercial, an Old West trail cook is threatened with guns by the men he cooks for when they mistakenly believe he has called one of them "honey."

CAMMP spokesperson Arthur Johnston said, "We've convinced Kellogg that the commercial strikes us as encouraging anti-gay violence, and, even though

they disagree, they've agreed to repeat the process they use to review commercials prior to airing them."

CAMMP's protests, initially registered with the company March 25, are being handled at Kellogg by Joe Stewart, vice president for public affairs. Johnston describes Stewart as a "very persuasive, articulate company man, tough as nails." Johnston said Stewart told him that the cowboys threaten the cook not because he has called one of them "honey,"



What all the fuss is about.

(Photo: R. Wockner)

but because he has told them there will be "nothin'" for breakfast.

"We don't buy that," said Johnston, "and neither would an independent panel of observers."

Nonetheless, Stewart has agreed to put the commercial back through the screening process, where it will again be analyzed and evaluated by four different groups.

CAMMP is requesting that Kellogg ultimately suspend

broadcast of the commercial, that it issue a statement disavowing any anti-gay message, and that it consider making some sort of donation to one of the gay and lesbian anti-violence organizations. CAMMP members have offered to go to Battle Creek and meet with corporate officers to assist in the review project.

"The commercial makes me more angry every time I think about it. The implication is that it's okay to hurt someone just because he might be gay," said

Johnston.

"This may not be as neat and clean as was our action against Stroh," he said. "Kellogg has more to lose than Stroh did. It appears this commercial is in wide national circulation, a fact that makes it all the more important that the community confront Kellogg."

CAMMP's previous action against Stroh's beer followed remarks in the Wall Street Journal by Stroh's advertising agency, Lowe Marschalk. Agency head Michael Lesser had said, "I'm surprised beer companies would think seriously of advertising in the gay media. Beer imagery is so delicate that getting associated with homosexuals could be detrimental."

Stroh responded to CAMMP's complaints within two weeks by denouncing Lesser's comments in a letter to the Wall Street Journal and in paid advertising in Chicago's gay press. "Any further incidents by Lowe Marschalk which denigrate the gay and lesbian community will have serious adverse effects on the relationship between our companies," Stroh wrote in its paid advertising. "We will continue to adhere to [our] strict policy of non-discrimination for any reason, including sexual preference," the company said.

Go Face to Face With Human Race

The Human Race is a state-wide, annual fundraising event for nonprofit agencies. Face to Face will be participating again this year in the 10K run and walk-a-thon. Pledges made will be used to continue support for people with AIDS and ARC in Sonoma County. The race will be held on Saturday, May 7, and will be followed by a picnic for all those involved.

Please call Rick at (707) 887-1581 for more information.

Parents Day Events Planned

Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon will be the honored guest speakers for the Parents Day breakfast being held in conjunction with the March on Sacramento. The breakfast is being sponsored by Couples, Inc. in recognition of the love and commitment represented by lesbian and gay families. It is a chance for same-sex couples, gay fathers and lesbian mothers to all get together to celebrate our families.

Martin and Lyon have been a couple for the past 35 years. They were co-authors of *Lesbian Woman* (Bantam Books 1972), and founders of the Daughters of Bilitis (1955), the first lesbian organization in the country. They also were the founders of the Lesbian Mothers Union. Both were involved in the formation of the Council on Religion and The Homosexual and the National Organization for Women. Martin was one of the first up-front lesbians in the women's movement.

The Parents Day breakfast will be held at 10 a.m., on May 8, in the Community Convention Center adjacent to the new Hyatt Hotel at the Capitol in Sacramento. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Make checks payable to Couples, Inc., and mail to P.O. Box 13323, Los Angeles, CA 90013-0323. Call (213) 550-7549 for additional information.

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Won't Run in June, Says Achtenberg

May Consider Other Offices; Gay Vote Turnout 'Disappointing'

by Ray O'Loughlin

A tired but gracious Roberta Achtenberg congratulated victor John Burton after last week's special election for the 16th Assembly District. Achtenberg said she hoped to work with Burton on common goals and announced that she will not challenge him in the June primary for the regular full term for the seat. Burton was sworn in April 14 to represent the district in which he began his political career.

"I've decided to withdraw from the June 7 race," said Achtenberg.

In a statement to the press, Achtenberg told Burton, "I don't want to see your energy and the resources and money of the Democratic Party spent on a political battle. I want them spent on the fight for stopping AIDS, improving the delivery of medical services and public education, subsidizing child care, protecting the environment, fighting discrimination, and all the other priorities you and I have articulated over the past few months."

"The best contests," she said, "are those against worthy opponents."

Earlier she had told supporters she would go up against Burton for the seat this term. But with a campaign debt to be paid off and in light of Burton's hefty majority of 53 percent of the votes, Achtenberg reconsidered. "That's just the reality of life," she said philosophically.

Overcoming great odds, Achtenberg came literally from nowhere to garner 36 percent of the votes cast. "I'm very pleased with how things went," she said. "Of course, I would rather have won than lost."

"We tried to stand for something, to articulate a real position, and people responded," said Achtenberg. "I'm very proud of myself and those who worked in the campaign."

NEW POLITICAL FORCE

Achtenberg has been credited with running a good, effective campaign. "We were able to take someone who was relatively unknown and create a viable, strong candidacy," said Debra Chasnoff, Achtenberg's press secretary. Achtenberg had never before run for public office.

"Roberta has emerged as a strong political force in San Francisco," added Chasnoff. "The base we pulled together will continue."

Asked if she has plans to run for office in the near future, Achtenberg was deliberately vague. "I'll be around," was all she would say.

Achtenberg attributed her loss primarily to two factors: not enough time and money. Although she managed to raise \$275,000, Burton forces raised twice that much.

Achtenberg now faces paying off a campaign debt. Exactly how much of a debt was not yet known by her office. But, according to Chasnoff, it is under \$50,000.

Even with a smaller budget, if the campaign had had more time, said Chasnoff, the results might have been different. "It was a very short amount of time," she said. "There was every indication that we were gaining momentum, the momentum was completely on our side."



An electioneering Roberta Achtenberg.
(Photo: Photographics/Darlene)

Achtenberg carried the vote in the Castro, Noe Valley, Inner Mission, and Bernal Heights areas. But Burton heavily outpolled her in Hunters Point, the Outer Mission, and Visitacion Valley and carried Chinatown and North Beach.

Chasnoff offered another reason as well for the defeat: "Apathy in the gay community," she said. "The community unified around her candidacy, but they did not turn out to vote. The number who actually got out and voted was disappointing," said Chasnoff.

PLAYED IT SMART

Asked if the attack on Burton's attendance record as a congressman had backfired as an attack on people recovering from drug and alcohol dependency, Chasnoff said she did not believe there had been any backlash. Burton represented the 6th Congressional District in the late 1970s and early 1980s. He declined to run for reelection in 1982, saying he had an alcohol and drug-use problem.

Achtenberg's attention to Burton's record was not an attack on people in recovery, said Chasnoff. "John invited voters to look at his record. We didn't go into what the reason was for his absences," she said, "only that his absenteeism over six years was shocking."

Achtenberg, too, had no regrets over her campaign tactics. "The tactics we utilized did a great job," she said. "We did what we had to do. We played it smart and did it with integrity."

The most satisfying aspect of the campaign, she said, was "seeing all the first-time people ever involved in a campaign come out."

Despite the loss, Achtenberg said the try was "worth it." She said her effort contributed to the political development of the lesbian and gay community. "What I did, I could do because of what Harry Britt did, and Harvey Milk and Pat Norman and others."

She also encouraged prospective gay and lesbian candidates to take advantage of "the reservoir of experience to draw from" from earlier campaigns.

Achtenberg summed up her campaign, calling it a "pleasure and a privilege." "I enjoyed it," she said. "I'm proud of it, and I'm looking forward to the next challenge, whatever that might be."

Upon her return from a brief vacation with her partner Mary Morgan, presiding judge of San Francisco Municipal Court, and their son Benjamin, Achtenberg said she will go back to work at her law practice with the Lesbian Rights Project.

CUAV Needs New Logo

Creative, imaginative people who wish to help celebrate the diversity of the lesbian and gay community are invited to enter a contest to design a new logo for Community United Against Violence.

As the group approaches its tenth year of service to the community you can help highlight that growth and diversification.

The design should be appropriate for business use, brochures and stationery and will become the property of CUAV.

Enter soon! The deadline is Friday, May 6, at 6 p.m. For details, call 864-3112.

Charges Still Flying In Olympics Debate

Lewinstein Claims To Be 'Distorted'; Ballot Arguments Hit Gay Power

by Allen White

Charges of scapegoating the gay community and allegations of distortions in the media continue to surface as ballot arguments are now beginning to appear in the latest battles surrounding the Olympics.

Charges of distortions and incomplete reporting have been leveled at San Francisco Examiner writer Bill Mandel following an interview with Sara Lewinstein, widow of Gay Games organizer Dr. Tom Waddell. Lewinstein told the Bay Area Reporter that many of her statements in a Mandel column appearing last month in the San Francisco Examiner were "distorted" and "incomplete."

Mandel reported that Lewinstein said, "Gay activists who opposed holding the 1996 Olympic games in San Francisco struck a blow against Tom's memory." Lewinstein said, "That comment wasn't directed toward them (gay activists), and I made that very clear to Bill. I said that I was very proud of the mayor and those six supervisors. That was distorted, incomplete and distorted."

Another comment Sara Lewinstein questioned related to statements about putting an Olympic-size swimming pool in San Francisco. "Reading Bill Mandel's article, some things sound stupid, like the comments about the swimming pool," she said. She said she was simply relating a comment of Waddell's about how he would like someday to see an Olympic-size swimming pool in San Francisco. If the Olympics had come to the Bay Area, the proposal would not have included a pool in San Francisco, a fact Lewinstein knew.

Contacted this week, Mandell told B.A.R., "I stand by my story, and I also stand by my record for being sensitive to the gay community." Mandel also noted that it was Lewinstein who first called him and requested he write a story stating her positions.

Ballot arguments for and against the June Olympics initiative issue are in at the Registrar of Voters' office. One supporting the Olympics measure, by Republican Robert Silvestri, stated, "Today, gay revolutionary demands upon San Francisco invite a new playing of the 1812 Overture." He charged that gay attorney John Wahl and person-with-AIDS Leonard Matlovich, a member of "the homosexual-oriented Concerned Republicans for Individual Rights, got San Francisco world-wide bad press with their demonstration in front of Mission Dolores against visiting Pope John Paul II."

Another ballot argument, submitted by Kevin Wadsworth, was backed by a number of gays including Allan Johnson, Jo Daly, James Haas, Paul Johnson, Robert Bacci, and Gay Games board member Lawrence Wilson.

Bill Paul, president of the Stonewall Gay Democratic Club, said, "I think Quentin Kopp has manipulated this thing from the outset. I think that Quentin Kopp wants to build up a big machine, and I think that this is a pretext to attack the mayor. I think the mayor has behaved quite honorably on this issue."

Sup. Harry Britt said, "Kopp is willing to take advantage of homophobia for his own political goals, as he has with other groups in the past. Most of the supervisors realize that you don't put issues of fundamental respect for people on the ballot, and we have always respected that, except for

Quentin and, in this case, other people who are willing to go along with him for purely political reasons.

"All five of those people (Kopp and Sups. Molinari, Hsieh, Kennedy, and Maher) know that the Olympics are not coming here in 1996 and know that this resolution will do nothing but stir up divisions around gay people in the city and enable them to pick up points with people who think that gays have too much power," said Britt.



It was a very gay Games, wasn't it? (Photo: M. Hicks)

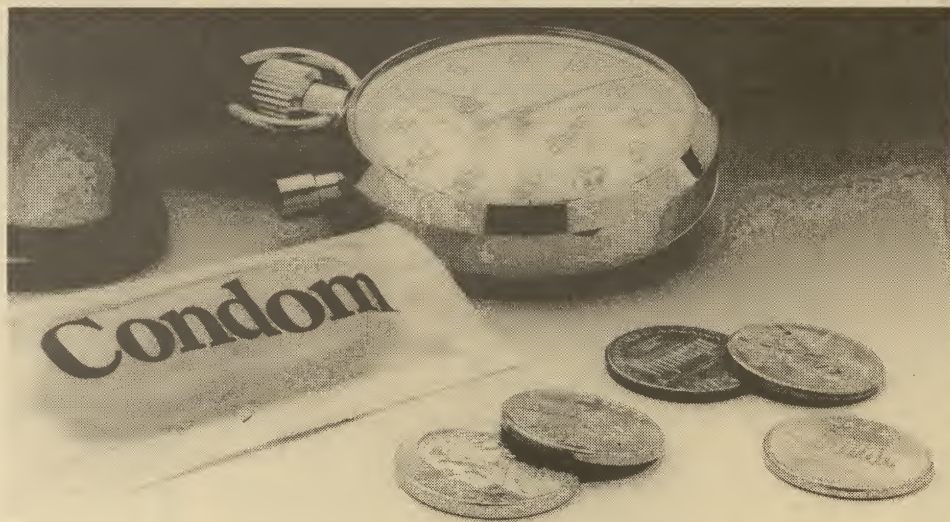
Britt continued, "That is an ugly type of politics. It's one that blacks and Hispanics have had to deal with, and we are going to have to deal with it. We can't back off of those types of attack because of an illusion that, if we behave ourselves, people will like us better. It simply is not true. Quentin Kopp is not creating homophobia, he is just exploiting it."

At a mayoral debate last June, Sup. John Molinari said, "I don't (favor the Olympics), for a variety of reasons. I don't want any organization to come to San Francisco or the Bay Area that discriminates against anyone."

Molinari concluded, "We've got more important things to take care of in this city. We have to solve the AIDS crisis, we have to solve violence problems in this city, and that's what we ought to be addressing our time to, but I don't want them here and I hope you will help us oppose it."

Molinari completely reversed his position. He voted against the Britt resolution and was one of four supervisors who signed his name to place the Olympics issue on the June ballot. The irony is that the chairperson for the next major fundraising effort for Friends of John Molinari, next month at Trader Vic's, will be Quentin Kopp.

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EDITORIAL & OPINION

A Chance for Victory

by Sup. Harry Britt

In the past years, the lesbian and gay community has faced a series of challenges and a string of losses. Not the least of these has been the AIDS epidemic—a situation more than we should have to endure without the political challenges it has also presented us.

I have written before in this space about the AIDS Research Tax Credit Initiative and the chance it represents for our community to score a major political victory in this state. Despite a lot of hard work and organizing, the effort to qualify this legislation is in severe trouble, and once again I want to make an appeal to each and every lesbian, gay man, and AIDS activist to help.

The AIDS Research Tax Credit Initiative is important for many reasons. Foremost is the fact that in the next three years it could produce \$180 million in state spending for AIDS research and education. Since the earliest days of this epidemic, we have been outspoken in our demand for more government support for AIDS programs. It would be tragic if we were to let fail this opportunity to bring about this demand.

Not once in our years of political activism has the lesbian and gay community summoned up its resources to present voters with the need to respond to one of our issues. Rather, we have had to spend millions of our dollars to defeat a string of attacks on our civil rights and our efforts to stop AIDS. The AIDS Research Tax Credit Initiative presents us with the chance to move our agenda forward and to show the voters, with pride, that the lesbian and gay community is leading the response to this epidemic.

Today we are encouraging gay men and all those at risk for HIV infection to carefully consider taking an antibody test, because there are meaningful interventions available to deal with HIV infection. Just as we are encouraging people to look at this step to protect our health, the Dannemeyer AIDS Initiative threatens to qualify for the November ballot. This sinister law would wipe out all confidence

protections for HIV tests and allow employers and insurers to test for HIV infection.

The California Medical Association is opposed to the Dannemeyer Initiative, and other responsible medical organizations no doubt will oppose it. But because it will be explained in simplistic terms, and because it has the backing of Paul Cann, this initiative will be extremely difficult to beat. I do not think we can beat Dannemeyer without persuading voters that there is an intelligent alternative available to them in the form of the AIDS Research Tax Credit Initiative.

On May 20 we must turn in 600,000 signatures to qualify the AIDS Research Tax Credit Initiative for the November ballot. Today there are only 175,000 signatures to turn in. The AIDS Initiative Committee has printed and distributed enough petitions to qualify the initiative three times—but people are not completing and returning them. If they have not returned them by now, they may not.

As insurance against the failure of volunteer collection, the committee must raise \$150,000 by May 1 to be in a position to hire people to circulate the initiative petition. But the response to fundraising appeals is also slow. Of its modest budget of \$450,000 to qualify the initiative, the committee has taken in only \$150,000. In the No on 64 campaign, we raised over \$2.5 million.

Even though we are being asked to do so much to respond to AIDS, each of us needs to devote the small amount of time and resources this campaign needs to succeed. Not one of us can afford to assume that these signatures will be collected and dollars raised as a result of other people's effort. We all need to help.

Please send a \$5, \$10, or \$25 contribution to the AIDS Initiative Committee today. When you do, request a petition to circulate among five or ten friends, co-workers, or family members. If everyone who reads this appeal responds, the initiative can qualify.

This AIDS initiative has a better than 70 percent chance of passing in November, according to polls. Our community and the fight against AIDS need this victory. Let's not wake up to a B.A.R. article on May 26 telling us that this important opportunity is lost.

The AIDS Initiative Committee is located at 10 United Nations Plaza, San Francisco 94102. The phone number is (415) 621-6164. ●

OPINION

Reflections on Metaphysics

by Daniel Owen

By now almost all of us know someone who has fallen victim to the latest craze that is sweeping our community. The symptoms are unmistakable. The vacuous gaze, the ear-to-ear grin, the ability to speak in clichés—yes, another convert to metaphysics. It has become almost as pervasive in our community as rubbers. I decided it was time to investigate.

"Where do I start?" I asked a friend. He smiled knowingly.

"Ahh, at last you are ready to hear The Truth," his expression seemed to say. "Come, come with me, my brother, to the Radiant Light Ministry. There you will learn."

It is billed (by itself) as San Francisco's fastest growing New Age ministry. I believe it. The Sundays I went, the predominantly gay congregation filled the large, second floor meeting room of Swedish American Hall to overflowing. The faithful were quite literally standing in the aisles, but no one objected. The air was electric with good vibes and excitement. Even I felt cheerful, despite my best efforts to resist.

The "celebration" begins with dancing in the aisles, followed by an inspirational, guided visualization. With the audience warmed up, the star of the ministry—Reverend Matt—made his entrance. The crowd went wild with applause and squeals of ecstasy. The regulars gave him a standing ovation. The newcomers looked about in bewilderment.

Clearly the faithful adore him almost as much as he adores himself. No, I'm not being sarcastic. Self-adoration is one of the hallmarks of the ministry. "I, [fill in your name], deeply and completely love myself." It is one of Reverend Matt's personal affirmations that he shares with his followers.

All of that is part of the celebration I enjoyed. I like having my ego stroked as much as anyone else. It is when the Reverend begins to explain the "principles" of the ministry that I find myself getting unsettled inside.

The central thesis that pervades his message is that we each, as individual God-beings, create our own reality and are, therefore, totally at cause for everything in our lives. He pulls no punches and makes no exceptions in asserting the universal Truth of this theory.

The Indians must have wanted us to take their land, or else we couldn't have done it, he declared one Sunday.

"Starving people are starving because that is what they have chosen to experience. And that's fabulous!" he asserted during another celebration of choices.

The ministry teaches that there are no victims in the world and no

oppression. Everyone is having the experience they have chosen. Everything is perfect. There is no right and no wrong. We are all guiltless and free of sin (no matter what we do). Nothing can happen to anyone against their will.

The political implications of such an ideology are mind-boggling. Apartheid must be perfect, because that must be what blacks want, or it wouldn't exist. Homelessness must not be a problem—those people have chosen to have housing be unaffordable. Even children are included under this radically individualistic teaching. If they experience being abused or neglected, that must be the experience they wanted.

I don't know what I find more unsettling about all this—the dogmatic certainty with which the true believers proclaim their debatable ontological theories to be God's Absolute Truth, or the total negation of any sense of ethics or social conscience such a belief system implies.

The self-serving appeal such a philosophy has for us comfortable, middle-class Americans is embarrassingly apparent. First of all, it validates our position of privilege in the global economy by proclaiming it to be a manifestation of our higher, spiritual receptivity to God's abundance. Our well-being is unrelated to historical or political forces, but, rather, solely attributable to our own individual thought patterns.

Secondly, it relieves the individual of the problematic task of having to think through the difficult moral dilemmas related to the problems of injustice by erasing life's complexities and replacing them with a set of ambiguous clichés.

Bouncing these criticisms off at least one true believer, it was patiently explained to me that the error in my thinking is that I am thinking at all. "These principles cannot be understood intellectually," I was informed. "They are not meant to be rational. Ours is a philosophy of the heart."

What can I say? I am all for having heart. I really am. I just don't happen to believe that one needs to toss one's critical thinking skills out the window in order to grow spiritually.

Call me unevolved and judgmental, if you will, but I still believe that ethics are important, that having a conscience is important, that being able to differentiate between virtue and baseness, justice and injustice, and—yes—right and wrong are all important.

We, as people united in community, may disagree at times about what constitutes ethical conduct in a given situation, but let us at least continue to explore and debate such issues, rather than turn into self-indulgent chowder heads unwilling to take a stand for any ethical principles at all. ●

LETTERS

Stamina

★ Why the big fuss over Mister Marcus' age? I've lived by and laughed hundreds of times at the writings of my favorite columnist in your pages.

I voted for him for emperor; I've always voted him for columnist of the year. I've spent hundreds of dollars over the years at benefits he MC'd. I'm 55 myself and wish I had the strength, determination and stamina this man has.

I applaud every commendation from the city, county, state and his own peers in this community. His record is enviable and for one of your readers to make such a big thing about his own calculations is petty, bigoted and plain stupid. I don't care how old Marcus is—I'm glad he's in this gay community!

James Sterba
San Francisco

A Legend

★ Sunday, April 10, the New Bell Saloon gave a big farewell bash for one of my favorite entertainers—I should say legend.



(Photo: Rink)

The fabulous David Kelsey played his heart out to the many of us who have been rewarded by his great talent! I wish him all the best in his future career endeavors.

Marvin-Michel Le Grier, II
San Francisco

We All Win

★ I object to those media people and pollsters who declare as fact that "California is a perfect primary state for Dukakis." The voters of this state consistently refuse to be pigeonholed and regularly demonstrate an intelligence and independence at the polls.

Nationwide, primary election results have frequently proven the pollsters to be wrong.

California voters will prove on May 1 at the Congressional District caucuses and on June 7 at the primary polls that the 1988 Presidential ticket will be different from the politician presidential candidates of the past.

The winner of the California primary will be the one person who has articulated a vision of hope for the future of all people; the one person we can trust to provide positive leadership; the one person who represents a change for the best!

Contrary to what the political pundits say, Jesse Jackson and his Rainbow Coalition will prove that all people can feel empowered. For when Jesse wins, we all win.

Doug Handerson
Menlo Park

Run For Your Life

★ Good News! Exercise prevents cancer! Running may help treat or prevent cancer! In the 1986 New England Journal of Medicine study, exercise (specifically running) helps prevent (as many know) heart disease and cancer. It was found that breast cancer and colon cancer was lower in risk for men and women burning more than 2,000 calories a week (equivalent to 20 miles a week).

But how does exercise reduce the risk of cancer? It is axiomatic that running relieves stress, and this, according to the American Health Foundation, reduces the risk of cancer.

Most important to the gay community is that exercise augments the immune system. The New England Journal report continues: "Doctors use biological substances to treat cancer. Substances made normally by the body to treat or ward off the disease. Two of these substances are interferon and interleukin-2, both of which are small proteins made by activated lymphocytes (white blood cells that have been stimulated by antigens). They are used to treat cancer and running may boost their production."

The bottom line: Exercise increases the number of lymphocytes in the blood, including a special lymphocyte, the "natural cancer-killer cell."

All the above information can be found in the April issue of Runners World. Unfortunately, our community isn't much into running. Running enthusiasm is low. Indeed, bicycling is fun and weight training is fashionable, but running has the most benefits. Try running for our lives.

Art Alcantar
San Francisco

Futile

The following was sent to the S.F. Chronicle:

★ It is a futile policy of your paper to continue periodically inserting biased editorials written by someone on your staff in support of inviting the USOC to hold the 1996 Olympics here in San Francisco. No matter how many (skewed?) polls you refer to in these sophomoric editorials, unless the USOC agrees to take specific steps to redress their gross insult to the world's gay population, the areas in which they and their games are welcomed will continue to diminish.

Also, by placing social ethics before a potential dollar sign, Mayor Agnos and the majority of San Francisco supervisors who supported the prerequisites proposed by Sup. Harry Britt have proven themselves to be persons of rare integrity.

Jerry R. DeYoung
San Francisco

Sexism

★ If the gay community wants to present serious candidates to a more heterogeneous voting public it would do well to concern ourselves with the way in which those candidates are presented. For example, in reading about the overwhelming defeat of Roberta Achtenberg by John Burton, I was shocked to read about her party for supporters.

Election returns were being displayed on large boards under two headings—"Roberta" and "Him."

This appears to me to be an excellent example of sexism and petty disrespect. I suspect that if the reverse had occurred this particular female candidate would have been indignant, crying sexism and demanding outrage from within our community.

In these times of confusing, antagonistic political competitiveness it will take more than being gay or gay-sensitive to win my vote. I'm also looking for someone who will be able to offer constructive ideas, is honest and ethical, and will run a campaign that is not hypocritical or based on personal attack. I know these gay men and lesbian women exist—it would be wonderful to see more of them participating in the political process!

Kim Robert Nelson
San Francisco

Remember In November

★ On March 7, Mayor Art Agnos and six courageous San Francisco supervisors stood up to the U.S. Olympic Committee, Quentin Kopp and a vehement mainstream press and said that if the 1996 Olympic Games are to be held in San Francisco, it will have to be an Olympics that affirms the basic human rights of gay people.

Since that historic day Mayor Agnos and the six supervisors have been subjected to a virulent anti-gay backlash that has been carefully orchestrated by self-serving politicians bent on using the issue to further their own grandiose ambitions. Of the six supervisors, two are up for re-election in November: Harry Britt and Carol Ruth Silver.

Britt has a built-in constituency in the gay community and his seat on the board is probably safe for as long as he wants to keep it. However, Sup. Silver is in real danger of becoming a victim of the homophobic hysteria generated by the Olympic vote.

Carol Ruth Silver was first elected to the Board of Supervisors in 1977, the same year as Harvey Milk. Two years later she was injured in the White Night riot. During her long tenure as a supervisor she has unfailingly stood with the gay community through one of the most tumultuous and tragic periods of our history. Because she speaks with the courage of her convictions, she has at times been subject to ridicule. At one point Herb Caen dubbed her "Miss Pushy Galore."

But sometimes it is good to have someone a little pushy fighting on your side. It will indeed be a shameful and sad election day this November if the gay community does not unite behind this loyal and brave woman and return her to office.

Leonard Whitney
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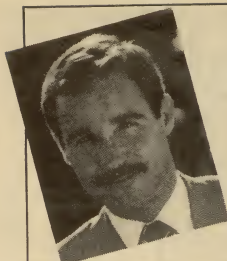
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EXPENSES

Exploiting Misery

★ Two years ago B.A.R. published a letter of mine suggesting that we needed more information about the administrative, personnel and fiscal policies of AIDS organizations. Only Hospice responded.

It is obvious that favoritism, discrimination, nepotism and anti-professionalism continue to be rampant and uncontrolled to the detriment of PWAs and AIDS volunteers. It is not that goods and services are not provided. It is that the need to control absolutely an organization to maximize personal benefits assures eventual corruption and inefficiency. We have experienced a history of this among gay organizations, initially with the best intentions.

However, those who came to do good and stayed to do well need not worry. San Francisco supports the philosophies that the end justifies the means, which usually includes indiscriminately throwing as much money as possible at a problem. Also, those who feed simultaneously at both the public and private troughs are rarely responsible to either the public taxpayer or the private contributor.

My question is, why should the federal or state governments provide additional funds to alleviate the non-medical needs of PWAs when the city and the gay community are unwilling to assure their effective utilization. To what extent do we allow exploitation of human misery.

Martin F. Stow
San Francisco

C'mon, Laugh

★ Ray Reuter commented in letters (April 7), "How are you?" asks a hugely important question, and was upset sometimes when people didn't mean it.

Ray, and anyone else, please listen for a moment. Words don't always mean the dictionary definition. I don't like it, you don't like it that way, but for our own emotional peace, so we don't get upset, we must play a game of detective. Sense how a word's used in practice. I don't like the sloppiness, but that's the way the world is out there.

"How are you?" has come to mean "Hello," and to save feelings, it is better to take it that way. Assume that is what was intended, even if not correctly stated. The nonsequitur response is "Hello," believe it or not. Listen, and you'll find it happens. Exactly that response. No laundry list of complaints is wanted or welcome. In fact, read off the list, and you'll get a startled look. "What's that all about?"

Only if it's followed up by other talk, added, so you know it is a question, an inquiry into your well-being.

The reverse is also a problem. If I really want to inquire about someone's state, I mustn't use that phrase "How are you?" or I'll get a meaningless, but socially acceptable "Fine."

"Fine" can mean "I don't want to talk about it," or "Let's drop the draggy news and get on with something lively I'm interested in, that will pep us up instead of drawn us in sadness."

Ray, if you catch-on to this, I think you'll be happier. I'm a slow learner, it took me a long, long while. People just weren't doing what I wanted them to do. I finally learned they're not going to do it. Me? I'm smarter now. Haha! Laugh, Ray, c'mon. That's-a-boy.

Lots of love until I meet you. I hope we do sometime. I want to ask you, "How are you, Ray? How do you feel since Tuesday? What have you accomplished on your novel? How high are the tomatoes? Can you see better now with new glasses? What has Uncle Henry said in his letters since I saw you? Wanta hug?"

No, I won't ask do you want a hug. I'll just do it, give you one.

Don Schneider
Los Angeles

Chorus Has Problems

★ PBS radio has reported on a premiere of a new opera, "Young Caesar," in Portland Oregon. Describing the homoerotic themes and male singers "actually kissing on stage," PBS reported that the work was being performed with the composer's consent by the Portland Gay Men's Chorus.

The S.F. Gay Men's Chorus left April 8 to repeat its recent concert in L.A., singing the same old tired Disney numbers it's done for years, and some Noel Coward fluff using the word "gay" at least twice.

The SFGMC may be the oldest of the gay choral movement, but if it continues in its present vein it will not be able to claim being best; it is being out-classed. The occasional gig in someone else's production is rare, and then built on need of 100 percent male voices rather than quality first. Image is not enough.

Greg Tallman's arrangements are too numerous and simply too average; it's useful to have in-house arranging to cut royalty costs, but the loss is in musical quality for audience and singers.

The Chorus is the point of the concert, yet the whole chorus seems to sing less each show. I can see Barbara Cook in a saloon downtown or drag in North Beach. I go to a SFGMC concert to hear that group sing to all of us for all of us—San Franciscans!

A vast body of musical literature goes untouched and to that extent the whole community is proportionately cheated out of its development. If the Chorus is in the hands of a clique or thinks itself so good as to not work hard to please an audience, I think the community has the right to disown it. Should that occur, Chorus, what would make you different from any men's glee club that has nothing particularly special to say?

Aside from Christmas, when was the last total sell-out concert? What's planned for the 10th Anniversary Concert—more repeats from the past or something creative, new, off-beat, beautiful maybe?

Portland has made a major move forward; SFGMC needs to take note. Its problems are not in the voices available. Start looking at production board and direction.

Robert Gleeson
San Francisco

So What!

★ As Clark Gable said to Vivien Leigh in the closing segments of *Gone With the Wind*, "Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn." That's exactly how I feel about the nasty letter from one of your readers last week regarding Mister Marcus' age.

I've lived in this town some 20 years and I knew Marcus from the beginning (we both arrived in August 1968 in S.F.) He has always been a fun-loving, caring, giving person. I don't care how old he is, and I find it most nauseating to hear some "queen" whining about a few years.

Every queen I know lies about his age, and very few over 40 ever tell the truth. So what? I don't have the time or inclination to sit with a calculator, delve into dates in the 40s, 50s or even the 60s.

All I know is that Mister Marcus has given of himself unselfishly for all the time I've known him. I have high regard for his stamina at his age—whatever that may be—and for anyone to quibble about a few years is asinine, jealous, counter-productive and negative in every respect.

I don't care if Marcus is 50 or 60 (though I doubt he's that old). I just wish more "senior types" would get out there and do the things he has done for many, many segments of this community. Long live the first emperor.

John Bevilacqua
San Francisco

Dukakis and Foster Care

The following letter was addressed to Gov. Michael Dukakis:

★ Dear Gov. Dukakis:

I am writing as one of your early Minnesota supporters and an elected State Representative from an inner city neighborhood in Minneapolis.

The purpose of my letter is again to convey my concerns regarding the foster care policies adopted and implemented by your administration in Massachusetts. The explanations of these policies provided by you, members of your staff and other spokespeople assert that the policies are based on the welfare of the child. Upon closer examination of the policies and the relevant social welfare literature, however, their derivation from the child's welfare seems questionable.

While I support giving relatives first preference, the details of the implementation procedures associated with your policies raise additional concerns. The requirement that all foster parent applicants in the third priority category must indicate their sexual preference is particularly disturbing.

At my endorsing convention March 26, a number of pointed questions on this topic were raised. The Dukakis subcaucus, comprising almost 20 percent of the convention delegates, unanimously approved the following resolution:

"Be it resolved that all Minnesota delegates supporting the Dukakis candidacy demand that he take a more active role in ensuring gay and lesbian rights, including equality in foster care and recognizing the equality of gay and lesbian couples."

I urge you to reexamine your foster care policies with the clear intent of providing foster children with a warm and caring home environment. I also urge you to clarify and communicate better your position on this and other issues affecting gay and lesbian citizens.

Peter McLaughlin
State Representative
District 60B
Minneapolis, MN

Screwed Royally

★ Recently I attended a screening of *Biloxi Blues* which included an interview with Cory Parker, the actor who played Epstein. From this experience, I recommend that no gay person with any sensitivity at all see this movie, unless he has plenty of time as well as emotional resources to deal with any anger which might be provoked. Even though the depiction is historically accurate, the gays in this movie get screwed royally.

Interestingly enough, Cory pointed out that in making the movie, certain things had to be cut from the play version of the story. For example, the scene where Epstein gets dunked in the toilet was cut because it came across as "just too harsh" in the more intimate medium of film.

Obviously, the scenes dealing with the homosexuals were even harsher, but they weren't cut. I assume that the sensitivities of gay audiences are of a rather low priority. Gay dollars should go where our feelings are treated with equal consideration. At least the gay men were not portrayed as being ugly or unattractive. I have to give them credit for that consideration, small as it may be.

But I still don't like having to deal with another needless source of anger, and I would have probably skipped this movie even though the screening was free. At least I would have appreciated the warning that while everyone else was partying and getting high on this joke or that, I was going to be the one who got hit in the face with the pie.

I guess that they just supposed that gay people always wear their bibs to parties.

Edward Williams
Los Angeles

Specialized Taste

★ Joseph Bean's review of a new reprint of Ronald Firbank's *The Flower Beneath the Foot*, doesn't give its author near enough credit. First of all, for a new generation coming to him—a better book to start with is *Vainglory*. No one is simply funnier than Firbank or can give sheer camp a finer name.

His narrative inventions (particularly his party scenes, with their surreal snatches of talk) helped shape the tone of the modern novel more than his American counterpart, Gertrude Stein, upon whom wreaths are now daily laid. For both, words were all, in a way Flaubert himself could have never imagined. But a new audience should be aware that while Gertrude can be repetitive and boring doing so, Firbank usually delights with rapier wit.

It's true any publisher always claims Firbank "re-mains a specialized taste," but that taste is one for a ritualized, inflected speech, gays have been known to toss about ever since two or three met together.

Ron Johnson
San Francisco

All Your Faces

★ Thanks to the readers of the Bay Area Reporter who voted me the Gay Community Awards Photographer of the Year. I couldn't have done it without all your wonderful faces out there in the dark.

Rink
San Francisco

Time to Start Teaching Is Now!

★ Through the centuries, the majority of European societies commonly taught in the homes, schools, and churches that it was the divine right, even duty, of straight males to discriminate and otherwise—including violence and murder—make the lives of homosexuals as miserable and unsafe as possible.

Some rationalizations for this demonic attitude are based upon biblical scriptures. Suffice it to say that the acts of discrimination and violence themselves negate any claims by their practitioners to be following Bible teachings.

Another feeble attempt to rationalize discrimination and violence against homosexuals utilizes the concept of race propagation. This warped train of thought places a high premium upon one's ability to produce fresh cannon-fodder. Even in times of yore, when a nation's prestige was determined by the number of young men it could place in front of blazing enemy cannons, this concept had little relation with rationality. In our time of rapid worldwide population growth, this thesis has absolutely no relation to rationality. Thank goodness the world's homosexuals are not significantly adding to an ever-widening population explosion.

Another faction of the propagation theory bases its dangerously discriminatory attitude upon the twisted logic that the homosexuals endanger the continuity of the human race by influencing children to take up their gay lifestyle. There is, in fact, a gay lifestyle, but to my knowledge it doesn't consciously influence anyone. But thank goodness, it is there for those who choose and need it.

What it comes down to is that, after centuries of domestic, academic, and religious indoctrination, the straight public, particularly in the U.S., now believes evil and harm toward homosexuals to be a socially and divinely blessed state.

What we must do, both as individuals and as a community, is teach the straights that discrimination and violence will not go unpunished; that disrespect toward members of our community will cost them dearly; that no longer will anyone be able to walk away from an assault on a homosexual unharmed; that we don't seek confrontations, but neither are we afraid of them!

We are an identifiable community, we are a proud community, and we can be a safe community!

Jerry R. DeYoung
San Francisco

God's Candidate

★ I just saw the film "Thy Kingdom Come, They Will Be Done," a 1987 British documentary about the growing power of the American Christian fundamentalist movement. The Public Broadcasting System was to have aired it but decided against airing this "sensitive" film when the Jim and Tammy Bakker scandal broke. I believe this is a critically important film that *must* be aired before our 1988 Presidential election so that the American public has the opportunity to see what kind of America the primarily white, sexist, racist, anti-Semitic, homophobic and war-like movement has planned for this country.

It was a laughable film only in that those of us who had the chance to see it could see through this movement's own bigotry and contradictions. But it was fearfully reminiscent of the nearly Nazi movement because this movement not only has a strong commitment to "save" America for righteous folks like themselves, but they have the money, technology, masses of voters and well-entrenched political leadership to do so. They are training their children right now to be "God's soldiers." And as we all know, they have fielded Pat Robertson as "God's candidate" in this year's presidential election.

I strongly urge all readers of this letter to see this film. Whether or not you see it, I urge that we all send letters to our local PBS affiliates and recommend that they air this timely documentary prior to this year's elections so that Americans have the chance to see the threat posed by this movement.

Tim Sally
San Francisco

Where Have You Been?

★ The silence of the gay press on the PG&E contracts issue is very irresponsible. The importance of this issue for the gay community is clear, given the number of programs crucial to our interests which will be scuttled for lack of money. And this is about big money!


I can say nothing about the details of the contracts, the matter is too complex for anyone but an expert. Possibly the gay press avoids the issue for that reason. But anyone can address the question of how the contracts are being negotiated. The *Bay Guardian* may overstate their case (I don't know), but one thing is clear from their excellent coverage: PG&E has been the source of all expert opinion. With our society structured the way it is, PG&E's responsibility is strictly to their shareholders consequently, and very obviously any information coming from PG&E is highly biased in their favor and against San Francisco. PG&E is not to be blamed for that, it's their job.

Blame—very serious blame—lies with our elected officials and the local news media for abdication their responsibility to seek independent expert advice and to open the issue for debate before any contracts are signed. The *Bay Guardian* has worked very hard to do just this. Where have you been?

Jim Creighton
San Francisco

Ed. Note: Although any number of issues are of concern to gay San Franciscans—from PG&E to nuclear war—we must focus on concerns directly involving the lesbian and gay community. We have our specialty areas of coverage, just as the Bay Guardian has others, such as PG&E.

Ray O'Loughlin



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Feinstein Tries for Third Term

Former Mayor Dianne Feinstein and now-Mayor Art Agnos have not shared a mutual admiration for one another for some time. The political bitch fight that broke out between them this week was a feud waiting to happen. Friends of both Agnos and Feinstein will tell you that all of that kissing and hugging on Inauguration Day was a put-on—strictly political show business.

If one had watched the friendship act that Dianne and Art laid on us as Feinstein was saying goodbye to Room 200 and Agnos was taking over the reins at City Hall, you might have thought the

two were long-lost friends. Not a chance.

Feinstein was doing a slow burn as she watched Agnos take the oath of office that day. Her friend, Sup. Jack Molinari, had just taken a bloody beating by Agnos, and there was little that Feinstein could do that January day but stand idly by and go with the show.

What finally brought about the bitter Agnos blast at his predecessor this week? Well, Agnos' people were telling City Hall listeners that Feinstein had finally gone too far, and the only way they knew of to put a stop to it (hopefully, at least) was to swing back. I doubt that Art Agnos had any burning desire to get into a political brawl with the popular



Former Mayor Dianne Feinstein

(Photo: M. Hicks)

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former mayor, but, according to his people, the feeling was that Feinstein was mouthing off too much, and the new mayor had it up to here.

Feinstein, along with former mayors George Christopher and Joe Alioto, last week called upon Agnos to reconsider berthing the USS Missouri here. Feinstein then went on television to chide Agnos for not agreeing with her point of view and, finally, asked viewers to write Agnos to back her opinion on the nuclear battleship.

Agnos quickly cried "foul" at the Feinstein ploy, saying that she had tried to "steamroller" a lousy deal with the Navy. Said Agnos, "Like so many of the other messes she left behind, she's trying to clean this up after the fact." Ouch!

Not only did she "mess" up the Missouri's Navy plan, Art said, he also pointed to the Giants' being unable to find a new baseball stadium, suggesting that, too, was a result of Feinstein's mismanagement.

For her part, Feinstein has indeed been turning up the heat on Agnos—mostly by using her weekly KGO-TV commentary spot to take shots at her successor. The former mayor has jabbed Agnos for his opposition to the Missouri, his opposition to the Olympics, and even his handling of the city's budget—not mentioning, however, the \$179 million deficit she left him.

The continued criticism from Feinstein was beginning to bother Agnos, and he used an extensive interview with the Examiner this week to strike back. Calling Feinstein's criticism "back-seat driving," Agnos snapped that Feinstein "had nine years to drive the car, and now it's someone else's

turn." Agnos complained that among the "messes" Feinstein left him were: "the PG&E contracts that she left for me, Candlestick Park [Giants] was left for me, Mission Bay was left for me, the homeless policies were left for me."

Dianne Feinstein had nothing to say about Agnos' remarks at press time, but one of her longtime former aides commented icily that, "Well, if he is now crying that he can't handle these problems, then perhaps, like many think, the job probably is too big for him. Maybe he should have stayed in Sacramento, where Willie could again show him the way."

So who is right in the current "battle of the mayors"? Well, I have to say that Mayor Agnos is certainly right in reminding Dianne Feinstein that she is no longer top banana at City Hall, and anyone who left the city in the red, as she apparently did, should probably do the polite thing and keep her criticisms to herself. She did, after all, leave Agnos with many, if not all, of his current problems.

On the other hand, if Art can't handle the problems, perhaps he should have stayed in Sacramento. Some City Hall observers are saying that Agnos is in over his head. Maybe so, but he certainly deserves more than three or four months to prove himself.

For the sake of the city, I hope the guy makes it, and, given the time, I still think he will.

As for Art Agnos' criticism of Feinstein for not endorsing Leo McCarthy for the U.S. Senate, well, that one is none of Agnos' business. Feinstein, like Agnos, has a perfect right to endorse (or not endorse) anyone she chooses. Though I realize Agnos considers McCarthy his "political

hero," there are a lot of people, myself included, who will lose little sleep if Sen. Pete Wilson soundly kicks Leo McCarthy's ass in the November election. There is something to be said for Dianne Feinstein standing by someone who has in the past stood with her.

Ah, yes, the Feinstein-Agnos scrap is a beauty. Wouldn't you love to be at the first cocktail party at which they both show up?

Republican Pat Robertson, the preacher-turned-politician, speaking this week on the child-care issue, commented that "delinquency, divorce, homosexuality, and child neglect are likely to flourish" unless mothers "are willing to give up their so-called immediate quest for self-identity and are willing to submerge themselves into the good of the family unit."

Roberta Achtenberg and Minnesota State Sen. Karen Clark were the featured speakers at the first California Lesbian Leadership Conference this past weekend in Irvine, California.

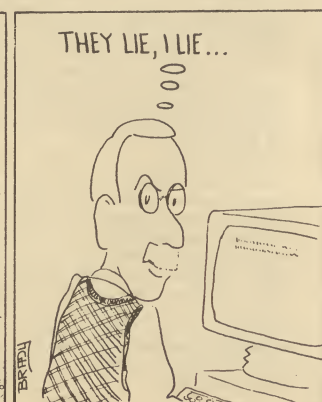
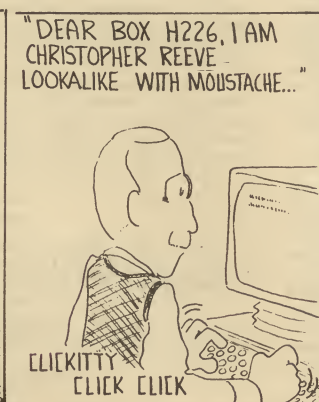
Our condolences to City Attorney Louise Renne, whose father, Jack Hornbeck, passed away in Lansing, Michigan, last week.

Figure this one out, Mayor Art. When George Bush (yes, that George Bush) threw out the opening pitch at last week's N.Y. Mets opener, he was loudly cheered by the 65,000 fans in Shea Stadium.

In Castlewood, S.D. (population 4,500), Shane Mack, an 18-year-old high school senior, defeated incumbent Mayor Paul Mullaney last week to win a two-year term at City Hall.

Sheriff Mike Hennessey will
(Continued on page 19)

LIFE AT THE CLOSET DOOR



Mike Hippler

Lesbian and Gay Nation

If Harvey Milk is the lesbian and gay community's Abraham Lincoln—the man who guided the nation through one of its most perilous moments to emerge victorious but martyred in the end—then Ray Hill is the community's Benjamin Franklin—a man who was more effective at establishing a framework for governing that nation than in defending it.

Of course, the situations are not entirely parallel, for lesbian and gay people in this country comprise a nation whose defensive battles precede its formal establishment and whose constitution hasn't even been written yet. But if Ray Hill has his way, all that will soon change, with the formation of the National Lesbian and Gay Rights Congress.

It is Hill's dream—and life-long work—to create an elective body based on the congressional model of the United States that would, for the first time ever, give formal and equal representation to members of the national lesbian and gay community.

As things stand now, explains Hill, a long-time gay activist from Texas who recently ran for a seat on Houston's City Council, there are numerous national gay organizations which claim to represent the viewpoints of lesbian and gay people in this country, such as the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. But most are run by boards of directors rather than by elected representatives.

Furthermore, most of these groups are dominated by activists from cities like New York, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. "Yet the world looks quite different from Santa Fe, Abilene, and Norfolk," he states. "These people want representation, too, and they aren't going to stand by and let anyone else speak for them."

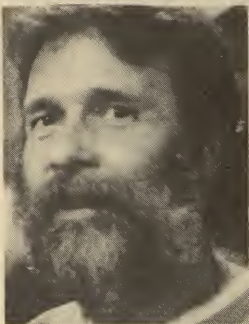
Hill has entertained the idea for a lesbian and gay congress for well over ten years, he notes. In 1978 he tried to show that it could serve as a way for the community to set political agenda, by helping to organize Town Meeting One in Houston, a 4,000-participant plenary conference, "with the goal of doing the same on a national level."

But Harvey Milk argued that the community's energies should be directed toward a national march on Washington instead, and, "as usual," states Hill, "Harvey won the debate."

That first march, Hill continues, garnered national attention, but resulted in deficit and confusion. It was not until the second march on Washington nearly ten years later that the idea for the congress was given the serious attention it deserved.

On Oct. 12, 1987, the day following the march, several hundred interested participants from across the country met to establish the basic framework for the congress. The meeting lasted for only a day, yet a good deal was accomplished, including the passage of six resolutions.

Among other things, it was decided that the congress would include delegates from each congressional district in the United States, plus several ten percent "stretches," to include openly lesbian and gay public officials and to ensure diversity. Each delegation would be selected locally, but would represent the ethnic composition of the district.



Ray Hill

Each delegation could be of any size, but could send only two delegates—one male and one female—to the floor to vote. Other issues were referred to four committees established at that first meeting: credentials, resolutions, agenda/rules, and site and logistics.

With luck, Hill hopes that the first meeting of the congress will take place from Nov. 12 to Nov. 19 this year in Houston. Hill himself is helping to secure a site and raise the necessary finances.

What the congress will actually do once it meets, however, is anyone's guess.

"It may choose to do what it wishes," says Hill. "But I suspect that these people are not going to be coming of any one mind. They will view the movement in quite different ways and may, therefore, have very different concerns."

"Personally, I have a very narrow view of the congress. I'd like to see them set priorities, assess resources, and then apply the resources to the priorities. It's a relatively simple charge, but if you make it too complicated, somewhere down the line it falls apart. I think we can accomplish this in a week. Then we can decide when we want to do it again—every four years, hopefully, during presidential election years—but before the Democratic and Republican national conventions next time."

Hill does not expect the country to be 100 percent represented at this first meeting. "I think that's unrealistic. But if we are 60 to 65 percent represented, that's enough this time. I do hope, however, that the seasoned activists—the old war-horses like me—will leave the delegate roles to the newer people and put their expertise into committee efforts instead. The last time we had a national lesbian and gay leadership conference was in Denver in 1977. I saw the same faces there that I saw in Washington in October. We need to nurture and to develop new leadership."

How well the lesbian and gay community responds to Hill's call remains to be seen. If he encounters resistance, he can take consolation in the knowledge that the Founding "Fathers" of the United States had their problems, too. At the first Continental Congress in 1774, only 12 colonies were represented. Furthermore, 15 years passed before a constitution was written and a permanent working government installed. Twenty-five years elapsed between the Stamp Act and the inauguration of the first president.

As the lesbian and gay community approaches the 20th anniversary of Stonewall, it is good to bear these things in mind. This is still only a beginning, after all.

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Albany Votes Down Rights Measures

ALBANY, NY—The all-Democrat city council of Albany voted down two proposals Mar. 7 that would have added city ordinances banning discrimination in housing and employment on the basis of sexual orientation. The vote was 12-2. Only Alderwoman Nancy Burton, sponsor of the legislation, and black Alderman Nebraska Brace voted for the measures. Another black alderman abstained from voting.

Activists said they had expected to lose, but felt that it was necessary to get council members on the record on gay rights. "We really felt that that was an absolutely necessary beginning to this process," said Jim Perry of the Eleanor Roosevelt Democratic Club. "Until we had the members of the Common Council on record, there was no chance of really assessing the situation."

Following the vote, 12 people were arrested in an all-night sit-in at city hall. Those arrested included four non-gay people supporting gay rights.

Burton attributed the defeat to the conservative Democratic machine. "The organization took no formal stand," she said, "but they never do. Their opinions are made known through subtle and not-so-subtle communications from headquarters, which are given to ward leaders, who then talk to the alderman."

The loss came despite a recent poll that indicated that the proposed ordinance was favored by 65 percent of city residents. The legislation was also supported by Gov. Mario Cuomo and 60 civic groups.

One opponent of the measure passionately accused gay people of "sodomizing our sons."

Although proponents do not plan to re-submit the measures again soon, they hope to get the Albany Human Rights Commission to expand its authority to hear complaints of sexual orientation discrimination.

—The Advocate



Dignity is suing the trustees of St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. (Photo: Rink)

Feds Ban Bias Against PWA Staff

WASHINGTON, DC—The federal government's Office of Personnel Management has banned discrimination against federal employees with AIDS and called for disciplinary measures against those who refuse to work with others who have the disease or are HIV-positive. Director Constance Horner said that the federal government had "an obligation to show the way in addressing the realities of the AIDS epidemic."

The guidelines state that employees with AIDS should be allowed to work as long as they are able to "maintain acceptable performance and do not pose a safety or health threat to themselves or others in the workplace." AIDS is to be treated like any other serious medical problem.

The policy also recommends education and counselling for staff who may be fearful of AIDS. For those who are disruptive in their objections, the policy calls for "appropriate corrective or disciplinary action."

—Philadelphia Gay News

Dignity Sues N.Y. Church Officials

NEW YORK CITY—Attorneys for Dignity, an organization of Roman Catholic gays and lesbians, have sued the trustees of New York City's St. Patrick's Cathedral, claiming that church officials engaged in illegal surveillance of group members who were protesting church policies. The suit contends that, on at least

four occasions since October, police and a private security company videotaped and photographed dozens of people taking part in protests inside the church during services.

Lawyers for the group say that the surveillance was carried out in violation of New York police guidelines. Those guidelines require special approval for surveillance of political groups.

They also said that the action violates constitutional guarantees of free speech and the 1983 Civil Rights Act.

Police officials declined to comment, saying that the matter was before the courts and is being examined by the Handshu Authority, a three-member board which oversees surveillance activities by New York police.

Church officials said that there was no unlawful surveillance by private security agents or police. They said they hired security agents who took pictures on private property, which is legal. They said they wanted photographs of protesters "solely for our own evidentiary reasons."

Dignity members have said they recognized plainclothes police officers taking pictures at the demonstrations.

Dignity has been conducting a series of protests of church policy that bans the gay organization from using church facilities for meetings. Their latest protest occurred Easter Sunday.

—Update (San Diego)

Gays Banned From Bars in Singapore

SINGAPORE—Night clubs, bars, and discos have been told to close their doors to gays and transvestites or they could lose their licenses, the Straits Times recently reported. The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) gave owners of the bars one month to stop admitting gay customers.

Homosexuality and transvestism are not illegal in Singapore, but the CID, as the authority for licensing clubs and other entertainment venues, can ask licensees not to admit certain people for reasons such as preserving order.

"We are taking a very serious view in this matter and would closely monitor all establishments," the newspaper quoted a letter from the CID's Public Entertainment Licensing Unit as saying.

The letter also asked owners to stop promotions such as all-male fashion shows which might attract gay men, the newspaper added.

The Straits Times quoted CID director Chua Cher Yak as saying, "We do not want to encourage such behavior. If the guys are together, and it's clearly a gay affair, I think there is reason to stop it altogether."

Bar owners said the only problem with the order would be identifying gay men for expulsion.

—Agence France Presse



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W. Germany Grants Asylum to Iranians

WEST BERLIN—Gay Iranians have been granted the right to asylum in West Germany. Because sex between consenting gay adults is punishable with the death penalty in Iran, the federal administrative court in Berlin ruled March 15 that that constituted a violation of human rights.

The court ruled on the case of a 40-year-old man whose application for asylum had been approved in lower courts. The court

called the Islamic republic's nature totalitarian and criticized the inappropriateness of Iranian death sentences.

The discriminatory intention of the death penalty became clear in official Iranian comments deeming gay people "depraved" persons who fell under "God's curse" and indicating that "the roots of homosexuality" needed to be "eradicated."

—Deutsch Presse-Agentur

Red Tape Snags Benefits For People With ARC

Can Take 1-2 Years to Qualify for Disability; Many Too Disabled to Pursue Application

by Dennis McMillan

People with AIDS-related conditions (ARC), who are frequently no less disabled than people with AIDS, are being denied Social Security disability benefits due to bureaucratic red tape, according to the Harvey Milk Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club.

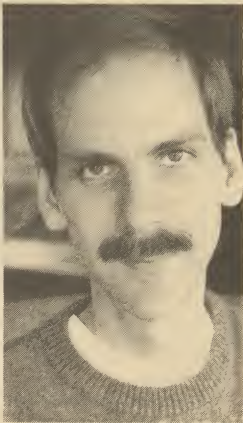
A number of AIDS/ARC social workers and benefit coordinators have met with members of the Milk club concerning the alarming number of people with ARC who are living in abject poverty. They are forced to appeal, time after time, with Social Security review boards. In many cases, they die before the Social Security Administration approves their disability benefits.

Patrick James, a person with AIDS and former Social Security hearings officer, is more than familiar with the maze the government forces ARC clients through in the process of getting disability benefits. He had been a hearing office manager in the San Francisco regional office and is well-versed in the legal and medical background of Social Security regulations.

When it appeared that the most difficult cases were those with ARC, James gathered enough information to compile an 80-page manual, *AIDS-Related Condition and Social Security Administration*.

The book includes guidelines for physicians to show that the applicant is unable to continue working. There is also a section on receiving necessary mental care, ranging from the shock of diagnosis to pre-dementia syndrome. Questions are answered on how to handle property, what does and what does not qualify, and how to properly fill out the reams of forms that are thrown at the applicant.

Over 2,000 copies of the manual have been made available by Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation free of charge. In addition, James has sent copies to most local physicians at his own expense.



Jim Lansdowne, vice president of the Harvey Milk Club. (Photo: S. Savage)

The official response of the local Social Security Administration office is that the problems in getting benefits for people with ARC are a national, not local, problem. They say they are sympathetic toward ARC patients, but they cannot change the national policy.

One Social Security officer (who wished to remain anonymous) said, "The policy is very clear: to put people through as much of a hassle as possible—as

much as they [Social Security Administration] can get away with—hoping that they [ARC patients] will either convert to AIDS or die before they have to get approved for benefits."

Ironically, in many cases a person with ARC can be more disabled than a person with full-blown AIDS. Depending upon the stage of their disease, someone with AIDS can be fully able to work. But once diagnosed, a person with AIDS is considered to be disabled.

James, himself a recipient of SSI, has led over 100 cases through the ordeal of applying. "I waive all fees and let the people enjoy what they have coming to them, to live in some dignity for the rest of their lives," said James. "It relieves so much stress that their health actually improves a little."

He has had to slow down to about 34 active cases, because his illness hinders him.

LEARN YOUR ABC'S

In order to help those with ARC through the application maze, James, along with Audrey Doughty, Michael Hillary, and Earl McCloud, has founded the AIDS Benefits Counsellors, a nonprofit organization. Its purpose is to walk clients through the gruelling procedure, giving



Patrick James (l.), Audrey Doughty, Michael Hilary, and Marty Mull. (Photo: S. Savage)

counseling, helping fill out paperwork, and representing them at all appearances required by the Social Security Administration.

ABC receives referrals directly from Social Security Administration, as well as by word of mouth.

ARC patients without Social Security disability benefits can get General Assistance amounting to a mere \$311 a month. On such a meager sum, they are forced to stay in substandard housing, with Supplemental Security Income (SSI), they would be entitled to about \$638 a month, as well as Medi-Cal and other medical benefits that are not otherwise available to the medically indigent who have not qualified for disability insurance.

Those who have worked five out of the past ten years are additionally eligible for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), which came out of their taxes. But you cannot apply for SSDI unless you are approved for SSI.

At the initial level of application for SSI, 87 percent of ARC clients are denied. Then comes reconsideration, followed by a hearing, and then by numerous appeals. Each level takes approximately 3½ months.

Most people who reach the hearings stage of application have waited about a year, subsist-

ing on General Assistance. In contrast, people with AIDS generally are approved within 90 days or less, according to Lansdowne.

In many cases, AIDS patients receive a check ten days after applying.

Adding further frustration, James said that General Assistance is attempting to form new regulations determining that if you are found ineligible for SSI, then you are not qualified for GA, either.

So far, James says, he has had 100 percent success in the cases he's handled.

According to David Lewis, director of the Harvey Milk AIDS Education Fund, "The problem is political; the problem is a lot of homophobia going on in the Social Security Administration."

ARC patients are slipping through the cracks, as it were. They are not counted in governmental statistical records of AIDS. "You can figure that for every AIDS diagnosis that occurs in the city, there are five diagnosed with ARC at the same time," James said.

For more information, contact AIDS Benefits Counsellors, 12 Geary St., San Francisco, or call 673-3780. The Harvey Milk Club is seeking documentation on ARC cases. Contact them at 773-9545.

NATIONAL PROBLEM

The need for the book arose out of the special problems and added stress an ARC patient must endure in the sometimes year-long or longer process of applying for financial aid.

Even though the federal Centers for Disease Control broadened their criteria for many ARC symptoms to be considered AIDS, the criteria that constitutes disabling conditions are still too narrow, according to the Milk Club. They argue that people are unable to work long before they are demented or have meningitis. "If a person has HIV antibodies and documented, persistent fatigue, sweats, weight loss, thrush, and fevers and is unable to stay up for two or three hours at a stretch, then he is obviously disabled," stated Jim Lansdowne, vice president of the Harvey Milk Club.

GAYLA X

The 10th Anniversary Gay Men's Conference, GAYLA X, will be held at Ferry Beach, Saco, Maine Aug. 27. For the 10th year we as gay men will gather at Ferry Beach to enjoy, play, share, grow and endorse one another. Celebrating our gayness, affirming our lives, being ourselves, we will create a GAYLA community. All gay men welcome.

SHOULD YOU TAKE THE AIDS ANTIBODY TEST?

Possible Benefits

- People who get test results usually reduce high risk behavior.
- By taking the test, you find out whether or not you can infect others.
- Regardless of the result, testing often increases a person's commitment to overall good health habits.
- People who test negative feel less anxious after testing.

The San Francisco Department of Public Health offers AIDS Antibody Testing which is **voluntary, free and anonymous**. Counseling and referrals are also available. To make an appointment for testing, call **621-4858**

YES

Possible Disadvantages

- Some people wrongly believe that a negative test result means they are immune to AIDS.
- People who test positive show increases in anxiety and depression.
- When testing is not strictly confidential or anonymous, some people may risk job and insurance discrimination.

For more information about AIDS Antibody Testing, call the San Francisco AIDS Foundation Hotline at **863-AIDS**.

Toll-free in Northern CA: (800) FOR-AIDS
TDD: (415) 864-6606

NO

Funding for this message provided by the S.F. Department of Public Health



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CONSIDER YOUR FEELINGS.

THEN DECIDE.

Frankly Speaking

Coming Out Hasn't Hindered Barney Frank's Political Career

by Craig Berg

Barney Frank is at the center of Washington politics today. He represents the diverse 4th Congressional District of Massachusetts. The Congressional Record rates Frank as one of the most talented liberal Democrats in the House of Representatives, a man with a mind so fast he sometimes can change the outcome of a vote in a single extemporized one-minute speech. He may very well have the "deadliest and politically most effective wit" in Congress, they said.

Rep. Frank started his political career by working with Boston Mayor Kevin White. He also served as a Congressional aide before he was elected to the Massachusetts Legislature in 1972. In Congress, the ACLU gives him a near-perfect 95 rating. He has voted for banning polygraph tests, for limiting Pres. Ronald Reagan's Star Wars (SDI), and against Contra aid. He has been visibly involved in gay rights and AIDS issues before Congress.

CB: What was the reaction from your colleagues when it was made public that you are gay?

BF: The great majority of my colleagues appear to have been unaffected by my disclosure. I mean by that that they seem to me to continue to judge me on my merits—or lack thereof—as a member of Congress and do not react in any way negatively to my having told them I was gay.

Of course, many of them knew that before I made the public announcement. A good many have, in fact, gone out of their way to tell me that they thought I did the right thing, but the key point is that it does not appear to have affected their evaluation of my work.

An article in the Boston Globe in late December by one of the Globe's Congressional correspondents reported that, six months after my having acknowledged that I was gay, it appeared to have no effect on my work.

CB: When you first entered politics, did you ever think about trying to hide your homosexuality?

BF: Yes, when I first entered elected office, I thought it would be necessary for me to be silent about the fact that I was gay.

CB: The word on the street is that the federal government is not going all-out to battle AIDS. What could the government do better to fight the AIDS epidemic?

BF: The government should do a much better job in educating people about the way in which AIDS can be transmitted. Dr. Koop wants to do the right thing, but he is overwhelmed by right wingers on the Reagan Administration. The government should also do a better job of protecting people with AIDS and with the virus from discrimination, by preserving confidentiality and by preventing people from being fired unfairly. In addition, there ought to be, in my view, national health insurance to provide for medical bills of those with AIDS, as well as others who become ill.

CB: Are the leaders of the gay community effective?

BF: I believe the leadership of the gay and lesbian community

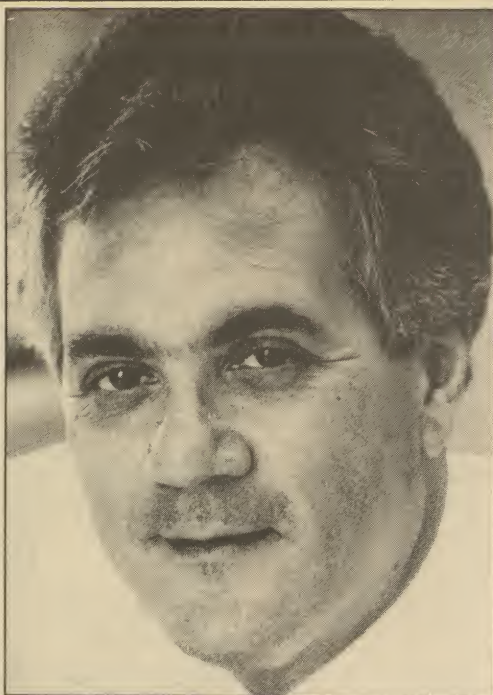
Gay Demos Aim For Convention

Gay and lesbian activists will be actively involved in the July Democratic Convention. Three activists have been appointed to the platform committee and three to the rules and credentials committees. Other appointments may still be made. In addition local activists are slated for delegate positions in at least 20 states.

The three platform committee appointees are Carole Migden, Dale McCormick, and Terje Anderson. Migden is the former president of the Harvey Milk Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club and currently serves as chair of the San Francisco Democratic Party. McCormick is chair of the Maine Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance.

Rules and credentials committee members include Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA), Tom Duane of NAGLDC (a New York Democratic party official) and Ron Squires, Vermont Democratic Party vice-chair. Except for Frank, who was appointed by DNC chair Paul Kirk, all the committee members represent their state parties.

They will be part of the Lesbian and Gay Delegate Caucus which will convene in Atlanta on July 18.



Barney Frank

do a very effective job of fighting for their goals, and I think progress is being made, although the AIDS epidemic has slowed down that progress.

CB: Do you think that we will see an openly gay governor or president in our lifetime?

BF: No.

CB: In your opinion, which presidential candidate has the best record on gay rights?

BF: All of the Democratic candidates seem to me to be pretty good, although none is perfect. Each of the Democrats has moved in a more pro-gay-rights direction in the last few months, which is a good sign of the influence that gay men and lesbians are having in the political process.

Unfortunately, all of the Republicans have terrible records. For instance, Sen. Robert Dole (no longer a candidate) has consistently voted with Jesse Helms on all of the negative, anti-gay measures that Sen. Helms put forward under the guise of fighting AIDS.

CB: Who was the biggest influence on your life?

BF: Former Rep. Allard Lowenstein, who was tragically murdered in 1980, was one of the

most significant influences on my life because he showed how you could be an effective fighter for peace and social justice through the political system.

CB: Which politicians are the worst enemies of the gay community?

BF: Sen. Jesse Helms and Reps. William Dannemeyer and Daniel Burton have led the effort to impose anti-gay measures under the guise of fighting AIDS.

CB: Why did you vote to ban polygraph tests?

BF: I do not believe they are reliable, and I do not think that individuals should be put at risk unless there is a virtual certainty in the instruments being used.

CB: If you had 15 minutes on nationwide TV to tell the American people why you voted against aid to the Contras, what would you say?

BF: I believe American policy should be to oppose the armed intervention by any one country in Latin America in the affairs of another. But I do not think we have the moral right, nor do I think it is at all practical, for us to pay for invasions of other countries because we do not think they have a sufficient degree of freedom internally.

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Pennies Add Up

We at the AIDS Emergency Fund want to thank you for your efforts in embarking on such a new form of fundraising and to tell you that you are to be commended for what you have accomplished as a community undertaking.

This project began in late August, 1987, with a projected goal of \$10,000 by Christmas. Through your generosity, you have made the "Every Penny Counts" project a success by collecting and transporting your pennies and assorted coins to your favorite penny jar location (over 26,000 pounds). You have raised over \$53,000 as of March 31, to provide critical financial assistance to help people with AIDS with their basic and essential living expenses.

Because of the community's generous support, the Fund has been able to help more and more men and women whose lives have been inalterably affected by this terrible disease.

How Your Pennies Have Been Spent

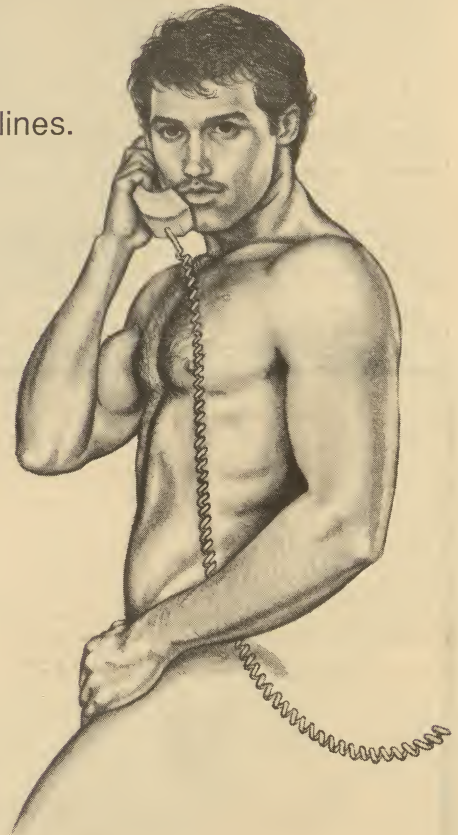
TYPE OF GRANT	NUMBER HELPED	TOTAL SPENT
Rent	120	\$39,135.61
PG&E	23	1,511.34
Telephone	31	2,237.84
Medical	23	4,390.83
Travel	2	578.02
Insurance	13	2,821.15
Miscellaneous	18	2,354.52
Total	230	\$53,029.31

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In Defense of Costumes

Why Dress Normal In An Abnormal World?

by Dennis McMillan

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. And, yes, Laura, there is a gay cause. And yes, Laura, sometimes we do dress in drag to express it. This editorial is in response to the letter from Laura L. Warren of Concord, printed in the B.A.R. April 7. But actually it is in reply to all the costume-phobic people out there. You know who you are.

Pretty soon now, as springtime nears summer, you will realize it is almost time for the annual Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade. And, coincidentally, time for the annual articles to the gay community expressing the hope that this year, for heaven's and propriety's sake, the drag queens will leave their dresses home and march in dignified street clothes.

As Laura wrote in her letter, "Freedom of speech is indeed yours, and you have a right to dress and speak and roam around as you see fit. But, at the same time, I think we all will get a lot further in the area of gay rights if we show that we are not a lot of freaky people waving wands and wearing funny clothes, that we are all normal people who simply want to lead a normal life."

Yes, Laura, I am sure you have a point there, as do all the proponents of proper dress code (and I don't mean silver lamé strapless) for the gay community at large.

But I'm not so certain that the Stonewall drag queens would

have agreed with you. In case you are unaware of the name "Stonewall," other than that of a number of gay Democratic clubs, I will explain.

In June 1969 in New York City, a group of drag queens who hid out at their local gay bar, the Stonewall Inn, decided they would no longer put up with the continual police harassment and arrests that were part of daily life then. At the time—less than two decades ago—it was not legal to be gay, so there was no gay pride, no gay politics, and absolutely no gay freedom of speech.

On this particular night, the Stonewall patrons initiated action that was to lead to gay libera-

tion. They fought back when the cops showed up. For several days and nights, the Stonewall rebellion raged on, and the so-called sissies beat the men in blue in a rather violent uprising.

So, you see, it was a group of "freaky people wearing funny clothes" back then who made it possible for you and me today to sit undisturbed, sipping cocktails in the bars of our choice. And, for that matter, those nelly fellas paved the way for every one of our marches, including the great one in Washington, D.C., last October.

Which brings me to my point. We are most emphatically not, for love and life, going back. We



Drag lives!

(Photo: Rink)

are not going to act or dress or speak the way with which the majority of straight society might feel comfortable.

If that means "waving wands," then so be it!

Perhaps you do indeed "want to lead a normal life." I am sure Concord will suitably provide you with this. But if you choose to identify yourself as gay (which you did not do in your letter), you need to get in touch with your roots and brush up on gay history. As do all anti-costume folks out there.

It will be a sad (opposite of "gay") day when we no longer display our sense of humor, but feel compelled to keep it hidden behind our closet doors, along with our ball gowns and high heels. Next we will have to relegate our leather chaps and cowboy hats to private parties only, safe from the scrutinizing eyes of the public.

I can just picture the glory of seeing the Dykes on Bikes leading our parade off, dressed in tasteful businesswoman suits. And, of course, the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Inc. will present a winning appearance to the media in their black and white three-piece suits. The name will have to be changed to "People of Perpetual Pleasing" so as not to offend anyone.

We won't want any empresses ruining our image, so our floats will feature lots of emperors and dukes and royalty dressed like businessmen. Perhaps we can convince some lesbians to put on nice formal gowns and look respectable and princess-like. Mike the Dyke will call herself Michelle the Lesbian. Lily Street will be renamed Market Street, and, rather than wearing lilies in her hair, he will be carrying a briefcase in his hand. That certainly is normal enough!

All marchers will be requested to wear shirts (for the men) and blouses (for the women). No exposed tops allowed. Before the march begins, all men will be frisked for any contraband costume jewelry or makeup they may be hiding and planning to adorn at the last minute.

The Girth and Mirth Club will be asked either not to be fat or at least not to show a sense of humor about it. After all, we wouldn't want the public to think that a bunch of happy, overweight gays represented our community, now would we?

And my closing comment is this: Thank you, Stonewall freaky people, and all your wonderful heritage of followers who are being heard. My skirt goes up to you!

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Our House

How Will Population Shift Affect Castro Village?

by Bob Woolhouse

San Francisco will be a Gaysian city before the year 2000—half gay, half Asian. So goes a recent joke about town. Meanwhile the Chronicle reports, "Fueled by immigrants and baby boomers having babies, the population of California will grow twice as fast as the nation in the next eight years. The Bay Area will surge to the second-fastest growing urban area by 1995."

Where does that leave Castro Village and vicinity in the next few years? Wiped out? Half Asian? Bursting with babies? The same as now? Or gayer than ever?

What is the future of gay mecca? We asked some real estate professionals who work in the area: Rick Cohen and Ron Wilmot, brokers and co-owners of Hartford Properties; Bob Speer, broker for Robert Speer Associates; and David M. Peckman, broker associate with Zephyr Real Estate Investments.

Their conclusions were not always unanimous, but all had thoughts on future trends for the Castro.

How did this area evolve from a straight, blue collar district in the 1950s to the center of gay and lesbian colonization by the 1970s? Convenient location, centralized shopping, affordable housing, colorful hillside streets, Victorian and Edwardian architecture, the possibilities for gentrification, physical sense of community, and relative safety and security were all mentioned as attractions for new residents.

What, we asked, is the trend in lesbian and gay home buying and renting?

Spread all over the city, much more so than before, said the brokers. With high real estate costs in the Castro, Noe Valley and even parts of Potrero Hill, more gays and lesbians have settled in the Silver Avenue-Excelsior District, Ingleside, Glen Park, Forest Hills, Mid-Town Terrace and further into the heart of the Western Addition. Bernal Heights, which has been a lesbian center, is getting an additional influx of gay men.

Then who is coming into the Castro?

More straight couples, married or not, with and without young children. Five years ago their answer to living here was an unqualified, "no way," but now they move right in when they find the house they want to rent or buy. Meanwhile, gays and lesbians, who would only accept the Castro and vicinity five years ago, now look all over the city for affordable housing.

What about the increasing presence of lesbians in the immediate Castro?

It could be a visiting or renting thing rather than a buying one. There is less intense male domination of shops and restaurants and also a women's bar. There is less desire for separatism than a few years ago, said our observers.

Now that the real estate go-go years of speculation have declined, is the easy fixer-upper still possible?

In spite of costs and lower rates of appreciation, yes, it is. Just get there first when a hot property hits the market, they advised. Make the right improvements: some foundation work may cost less than new bathrooms. If you can't do expert finishing work yourself, try to have it done pro-

fessionally since buyers want quality detailing and move in condition. As always, go for the poorest house on the block and upgrade it to neighborhood standards. It may take longer to turn the property over, but it can be done profitably.

What kind of real estate do lesbians and gay buyers prefer?

Single family residential at first and after that two or three units not under rent control. They want security and privacy and an area with a sense of community if possible—just about the same as everybody else. Artists will often go for a loft in the Mission rather than South of Market, where prices have in-



Ron Wilmot and Rick Cohen of Hartford Properties
(Photo: S. Savage)

flated so much in recent years.

Will the Castro become half Asian by the year 2000?

Most likely not, said the real estate brokers. Asians will continue to expand throughout the Tenderloin and also along the Mission Street corridor between 16th and 18th streets, but will likely not colonize the Castro in large groups.

Should you buy now or later, we asked.

Try to buy now as interest rates are declining, they said. Sometimes a 10 percent down payment will do. Condominiums provide a good value since prices are soft now. Flats are a good investment if you can swing it, especially with one or two other owners.

How about commercial property in the heart of Castro Village?

In conclusion, the Castro will continue to be a lesbian and gay district at least for the foreseeable future. It may not be as ghettoized as in recent years, however, as a few families move back in.

And how can you tell when the trend is really under way? When a straight bar opens and succeeds on Castro St.

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DEATHS

Jason Dru Oct. 24, 1929-March 7, 1988

Born, raised, married, and divorced in Ohio, Jason Dru spent most of his adult life in Southern California. He worked in film and little theater as a stagehand, actor, and narrator. He was a partner in a photographic shop in the Los Angeles area, and for ten years was part of the sound and lighting crew for Metropolitan Community Church of Los Angeles. He co-produced two documentary films on the history of MCC. Professionally he was a sound technician. He worked at every major studio in Hollywood, and for a long time on the TV series *Green Acres*.

Jason died from Smoking. Emphysema ran him down for years and finally killed him. He is survived by his companion of 32 years, a sister, brothers, nieces and nephews, and many good friends.

Church founder Troy Perry was out-of-town in Washington, D.C., but he phoned, then wrote a long, touching letter about Jason's activities in the church. The letter was read at a service.

All four Metropolitan Community Churches in Los Angeles joined in a

memorial service on Saturday, March 26, 1988 at MCC In The Valley in North Hollywood.

There must have been 60 friends lined up to hug the survivors.

Dick Andreetta

Dick Andreetta, born Dec. 25, 1928, in Modesto, died of cancer (not AIDS) April 12, 1988 in Turlock, California. He was 59 years old.



Well known in the San Francisco gay community for many years, Dick was a generous friend to many. The accompanying photograph shows Dick at his 50th birthday party, a big bash that was one of the crowning achievements of his life.

Dick is survived by three brothers, Edmund, William and Tino; his daily companion and friend Frank Gianella; his dance partner at the Rawhide, Jeanne Micene, also a close friend and mainstay; his friend of 43 years, Joe Maniscalco; and many others.

Dick's brothers and friends wish all to know that they tried to reach everyone they could after Dick's death.

Bob Paulsen

Dec. 19, 1937-April 11, 1988

Bob Paulsen, affectionately known as "Pussy" by his many friends, passed away due to AIDS on Monday, April 11. He was 50 years old. A memorial service will be held on Sunday, April 30 at the MCC Church, 150 Church St., at 2 p.m.

Paulsen was one of the best-known and loved members of the gay community as the community flowered here in San Francisco. Not only was he a business partner in the popular Castro Street Florist shop, but he was also a ten-year veteran of the San Francisco Sheriff's Department. He also was a member of Pigs In Paradise, a gay police officer's association.

Bob is survived by his special friends Dan, Bella, Richard and Chuck as well as brothers James and Norman and many nephews and nieces.

Following the memorial service, a Celebration of Life will be held in the upstairs hall over the church. A collection will be taken up at that time to help defray the costs of the services. Any extra proceeds will be given to Kairos House to help promote spiritual healing.

Group Forming For HIV Couples

A support group is forming for gay male couples to address issues surrounding HIV status. Unlike others, this support group is for couples in which each partner has a different HIV status. For ten weeks beginning in May, the group will explore the unique concerns that these couples face.

The group is being formed by Elliott Linwood and Will Courtenay. After receiving their differing test results, Will and Elliott sought the support of a group of couples like themselves. A search through existing resources revealed that there was no such group, and there was clearly a need for one. Encouragement in the community inspired the couple to start a group themselves.

Will is currently a counselor at 18th Street Services. Although Will and Elliott both have experience facilitating groups, the couple wanted the group as much for themselves as for others. As a result, the two decided to form a group without primary facilitators. Leadership functions will rotate among the couples in the group. For this reason, prior group experience and some leadership ability are required.

For more information about the group, contact Elliott or Will at 346-3044.

Davies Charges S.F. 'Reneged' on PWA Hospital Referrals

Bars S.F. General Patients While Focusing on Medi-Cal Payments

by Jay Newquist

A dispute with the city has caused Davies Medical Center to bar its doors to AIDS patients referred by San Francisco General Hospital. The impacted PWAs are the pawns who are too sick to go home, but need routine hospital care.

At issue is the growing financial crisis that Medi-Cal reimbursement for AIDS patients is lower than the cost of care. Davies will continue to see AIDS patients on Medi-Cal in its skilled nursing facility who are referred from other hospitals.

The private hospital notified city health officials on March 21 that it would bar S.F. General's AIDS referrals because Davies felt the city reneged on an "understanding" to refer other patients to Davies' acute rehabilitation unit. These physical therapy referrals for spinal and head injuries would soften the losses for Davies from S.F. General's AIDS referrals.

Davies is further piqued that S.F. General is referring AIDS patients to Garden Sullivan Hospital and Ellipse Care Center in Redwood City—and apparently reimbursing those two hospitals.

The Department of Public Health flatly denies there was ever a deal, while Davies is emphatic that such an understanding was in place. Dr. Stephen Follansbee, the Davies medical director of human immunodeficiency virus research and treatment unit, said the agreement was well known. He reported the city made a similar pitch to St. Luke's Hospital in the past during a meeting he attended.

POLITICAL PROBLEM

Follansbee said the obvious problem was noncompensation for AIDS Medi-Cal patients, but the real intent was political. "This whole issue is being raised to get a Public Health Hospital open," said Follansbee.

He was referring to the U.S. Public Service Health Hospital at 15th and Lake that is currently occupied by the Defense Language Institute. Federal legislation would be needed to remodel and operate the premises as an AIDS care facility.

Follansbee said S.F. General could itself commit 150 beds to skilled nursing care, "if they had the money."

A spokeswoman for city health officials said there was never a deal between S.F. General to funnel AIDS patients with other acute patients to Davies.

Beverly Hayon said Davies had only recently raised the subject, and nothing had ever been etched in stone. She reported there was a terrible shortage of skilled nursing beds at S.F. General and, furthermore, that only 8 of the 23 patient referrals who needed skilled nursing beds at Davies were accepted since October 1987.

"The city can't agree to promise what kinds of referrals it will make," Hayon said, adding the problem is now where to send AIDS patients who need skilled nursing care.

She pointed to the premises at 15th and Lake as a possible source of 240 beds, but the legislative process to reclaim the hospital could take years. "We want the place, we need it, but we can't afford it."

Both sides say a meeting is desperately needed to air grievances, but none has been scheduled. Now that Davies has dropped out of the picture, AIDS patients on Medi-Cal will have one less place to go for care.

California Funeral Service

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Register and Ride in the Fourth Annual AIDS Bike-A-Thon. —More than 600 riders have already registered for this worthwhile fundraiser for direct-care service for PWAs. This year's goal is for 1,500 riders to raise \$500,000 for 15 Bay Area beneficiaries. To join in the fun, come by the registration rally at the Different Spokes Bicycle Club booth at 18th and Castro streets from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, or call 771-0677.

Van de Kamp to Rule On Condoms in Jails

Hennessey Urges Positive Ruling

by Allen White

San Francisco Sheriff Michael Hennessey has again put the legal machinery into operation to allow the distribution of condoms to all county jail prisoners. At Hennessey's request, California Attorney General John Van de Kamp's office will draft a legal opinion on whether or not this policy can be implemented. The issue requires an official opinion due to conflicting state laws prohibiting consenting sexual activity among jail and prison inmates.

Hennessey's proposal would have jail medical staff distribute condoms as part of their regular health-care duties. The prisoners would receive the condoms only after they had received AIDS counseling and education.

A spokesperson for Hennessey stressed that deputy sheriffs would not be involved in the distribution. He said he simply does not know if any person currently in the jail system has AIDS. "We view it as a medical problem," the spokesperson said. "The disease is treated like any other serious illness. If a prisoner has AIDS, it will be known by the medical staff, and they will take the appropriate action to assure satisfactory medical attention."

"As I have stated repeatedly during the past five years, AIDS is a medical problem," Hennessey said. "It must be fought medically and with all the resources at our disposal. To do anything less is to condemn hundreds of thousands of men and women to the ravages of this deadly venereal disease."

In February 1987, Hennessey implemented a program to distribute condoms and information to newly released San Francisco County Jail prisoners when they pick up their property at a site outside the jail. Citing the large AIDS-at-risk population groups which routinely go through the system, Hennessey sees the condom distribution program as a way to educate those most affect-



ed by the disease.

When the condom program began for released prisoners, the sheriff had wanted to begin a program for those still in custody. He

was, and still is, thwarted in those efforts by the state law.

"California State Penal Code Sections 286(E) and 288(E) were originally intended to protect jail

and prison inmates from sexual assault," said Hennessey. Sophisticated classification systems and properly managed security can do the job effectively," he added. "As it stands now, the very laws meant to protect inmates are preventing them from receiving life-saving AIDS materials."

Hennessey is acknowledged and respected as one of the nation's leading authorities of the effects of the AIDS epidemic in jail and prison environments. For the last several years, he has been invited to speak at seminars across the U.S.

The opinion of the California Attorney General could have far-reaching implications. If he issues a positive opinion on jail and prison distribution, every adult detention facility in California would be affected.

Friday

(Continued from page 10)

be the featured speaker at the 1988 American Jail Association Conference in Los Angeles Saturday. Hennessey will address issues concerning AIDS in the workplace.

Remember when the "recommendation" of a political action committee meant the club endorsement was sure to follow? Toklas' political action committee recommended a score of County Committee candidates, but Connie O'Connor was the only one to get the club membership's nod (and that was due to her personal popularity). Why should these candidates subject themselves to useless grilling by a bunch of would-be club leaders, plus an endless questionnaire, when a "recommendation" by the group is meaningless?

John Burton, after winning his old Assembly seat back last week, said, "This makes me very happy, very pleased, very humble," to which one observer cracked, "Happy and pleased, to be sure, but can you really see a humble John Burton?"

Rep. Nancy Pelosi, never at a loss for words, no matter how silly, gushed at Burton's victory party that "this is absolutely a resurrection for John," though Burton himself scowled that she was mistaken—because "for a resurrection, you have to be crucified, dead, and buried." Ah, that Nancy, always good for a quote.

How's that? Recently released FBI figures show that crime was up in San Francisco 2.1 percent in 1987, while crime apparently went down in L.A. for the same period by 7.4 percent.

Congratulations to Randy Shilts for winning the Bay Area Book Reviewers Association's 1988 award for his best-selling *And the Band Played On*.

The AIDS count: The World Health Organization reported this week a 4.7 percent increase



Sheriff Michael Hennessey

in AIDS cases for March. Africa passed Europe in the number of recorded cases for the first time, but the USA still had the most: 65 percent, or 55,167 cases.



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Volunteers Still Needed For May 7 Rights March

SF Expected to Send 10,000 to Sacramento

by Dennis McMillan

Mobilization Against AIDS (MAA) is organizing the Northern California coordination efforts for the May 7 March on Sacramento for Lesbian and Gay Rights. The march is expected to have a similar spirit and effect as the October March on Washington, D.C.

The event will kick off with a march at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 7, and end the following Monday with a civil disobedience demonstration. People will assemble at Grant Playground on C Street in Sacramento, marching to the east steps of the capitol at noon. The list of speakers has yet to be confirmed, but it is certain that Ivy Bottini, president of the Stonewall Gay Democratic Club, and lesbian comic Robin Tyler will be speaking in the afternoon.

The streets will be blocked off in anticipation of up to 20,000 local demonstrators known as the Lavender Triangle.

On Sunday there will be a "die-in" around the state capitol, where people will drop to the pavement and outline their bodies in chalk. This is intended to speak dramatically to Sacramento workers when they arrive on Monday morning.

Monday will be Lobby Day, coordinated by Lobby for Individual Freedom and Equality (LIFE), the only gay lobby group in Sacramento.

Marchers have five demands. They want passage of nondiscrimination legislation such as AB-1. They also demand massive increases in AIDS funding, non-discrimination legislation for people with AIDS and HIV infection, and inclusion of hate-crimes bills dealing with sexually oriented violence. They also demand the repeal of the Gann Limit (the limit of funding that was passed as Prop. 13 several years ago, which severely hinders AIDS funding).

Southern California activists asked MAA to organize Northern California marchers. MAA did similar work during last October's March on Washington.

"We view a successful march as essential to both blocking the bad AIDS legislation in California and creating expanded AIDS treatment and research pro-



Paul Boneberg (Photo: Rink)

grams," said Ken McPherson, chair of Mobilization's board of directors. "When contacted by our fellow activists in Southern California to help with the march, we felt we couldn't say no."

THE WORK STARTS

Three weeks ago, Mobilization began its work on the Sacramento march. "Our sense is that most gay and lesbian San Franciscans would go to a march like this if they knew about it and had time in advance to make plans," explained Paul Boneberg, executive director of MAA.

Not only will Mobilization offer its offices as a contact point and help to distribute banners, flyers, and posters, but it also hopes to reserve round-trip buses for those who do not have cars. Bus rentals will depend on the number of people interested. Tickets will be limited and must be purchased for \$20 at least one week before the march. MAA encourages would-be bus riders to call 863-4676 for reservations.

Mobilization anticipates up to 10,000 San Franciscans driving up to Sacramento. For those who would like to stay for more than the one-day march, limited housing will be made available if planned in advance. Arrangements may be handled by calling 863-4676.

It should be similar to the all-day-long Castro Street Fair, Boneberg said. It will be a lot of fun, as well as making a statement against the Doolittle and LaRouche legislation.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

A meeting was held Sunday at the Clarion Cafe on Mission Street, where Boneberg stressed the need for additional volun-

teers to get out about 10,000 more flyers and 1,000 posters.

"We have an urgent situation in Sacramento, where they're talking about doing things like making antibody-positive status a reportable disease," said Boneberg. "They're considering allowing medical insurance to be based on antibody status. They're talking about forced testing for large numbers of Californians."

On the other hand, there is much positive legislation at stake, according to Boneberg. For instance, a \$35 million treatment program, proposed by Assembly Speaker Willie Brown, would be a model for national legislation for people infected with the AIDS virus before they become ill. "We have to pass these bills, and the only way we are going to do so is by showing that we care enough," said Boneberg.

The date of the march is strategically planned in that May 7 is the beginning of the California primary, when presidential candidates will be present. It is an opportunity to urge them to talk about lesbian and gay and AIDS-related issues.

The march anticipates heavy media coverage. "If any of the three expected candidates attend—Jackson, Dukakis, or Gore—we will have major national press, since their entourage of reporters is always so great," said Boneberg. "This could be the major address on AIDS and gay rights in the presidential election."

"I hope people will understand how important it is and make the decision to go," Boneberg added. "It's so much easier than the March on Washington, and I think it will be just as much fun. It's much less expensive, much less difficult, just as important, and should have just as much good feeling as occurred at the national march."

Concord AIDS Center Open

The Diablo Valley AIDS Center is now open in Concord. It offers support counseling, AIDS information, referrals, workshops, and drop-in services for those people with AIDS/ARC, HIV-positive individuals, families, friends, and lovers.

The Diablo Valley AIDS Center is located at 2253 Concord Blvd. and is open from 3 to 7 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

The AIDS Center meeting is the first Sunday of each month at 12:30 p.m. at the above address.

For more information, call the AIDS Center at 686-DVAC. ●

Bike-A-Thon To Benefit EBAF

VIAGGIATORY
VELOCIPEDES

(A "Highwheeler" Nose)

The 1988 AIDS Bike-A-Thon will be held on Saturday, May 14. Registration of riders for this event has begun, and will continue through May 2. One of the most ambitious grassroots AIDS fundraising efforts in Northern California, organizers seek to have 1,500 riders take to the streets to raise more than \$500,000 for 15 Bay Area AIDS services providers.

This year East Bay Assistance Fund is included as a beneficiary of this event. Providing services in Alameda County, 100 percent of the funds collected from the event will go to services which provide direct care for people suffering from AIDS/ARC.

Registration forms for the Bike-A-Thon can be picked up at Town & Country or from representatives of MCC Hayward, or by calling 771-0677. The event sponsor, Different Spokes/San Francisco, will have a registration booth every Saturday and Sunday at 18th and Castro streets in San Francisco to answer questions and sign up riders for any one of three distances: 25 miles, 60 miles, or 100 miles.

Over the past three years, the AIDS Bike-A-Thon has grown from 65 riders raising \$30,000 in 1985 to 1,000 riders who raised \$325,000 in 1987. (Let's hope this year's event is even bigger!) Sponsored by the gay and lesbian bicycle club, the event is the only major fundraiser for AIDS/ARC services which covers the greater Bay Area, this year benefiting agencies from Sonoma to Santa Clara counties. East Bay Assistance Fund is privileged to be a beneficiary this year.

Additionally, it is the only event which guarantees that 100 percent of the pledges are given to the beneficiary agencies because the event is produced entirely by volunteers and administrative costs are raised separately by the sponsor.

Speaking of volunteers, East Bay Assistance Fund is urgently requesting all cyclists in the East Bay to participate in this very worthwhile event. Also, at least 10 volunteers are requested to assist with clerical duties on the day of the Bike-A-Thon. This sign-up sheet is available at Town & Country. Time slots are available starting at 6 a.m. and ending at 4:30 p.m. My spouse and I have signed up for the 1:30-4:30 shift. Clerical volunteers must sign up before May 1 so they can be notified of a "training" session before the May 14 event.

EBAF sincerely hopes many East Bay residents will participate in this event.

PANDEMIC POLYNESIANS
(A Nullifidian Nose?)

Not only is Little Mother "doing" Hayward with an auction at the "World Famous" Turf Club Saturday, May 21 (call 562-9826 if you have donations [No, I don't know the number to reach her in the Tenderloin!]), but she is also "doing" Hayward at the Spoiled Brat Sunday, July 10.

It will be "Hawaiian Night" complete with her very own home-cooked Filipino food. For a \$20 admission fee, you will get not only the scrumptious repast, but also a Hawaiian Revue produced by—are you ready for this?—none other than Nova Lei! Lady Johnny will be handling



some of the logistics, too. A certain "Miss What'shername" told me she had a small walk-on part. Walk on? How about "Orca On"?

Let's see: there's "gay time"; "Hawaiian time"; and "Gay Hawaiian Time." Little Mother is

really torn as to what time to put on the posters and flyers! Proceeds from this event will go to EBAF and BASH.

OLLA-PODRIDA
(A Medley Nose)

What a difference a job makes,

dept: #1. Now that B.J. is working in the City, he's sporting white shirts and ties. Quite the young exec, especially without that bleached spot on the side of his hair! #2. Trish isn't saying too much, but it seems Cheryl "blew" her entire first paycheck at the very establishment from which she earned it! Mercy, what a 20 percent discount won't do!

I'm sure there were many Academy Award contests, but the one I was told about was at Town & Country. Congratulations to the winners—it was a three-way tie between Danby and Phil!

If you've always wanted to "kick up your heels" to the Country/Western beat but didn't know how to do the steps, now's your chance. The Turf Club offers free dance lessons Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. (Please leave your horse and buckboard parked outside, however.)

I heard through the grapevine that insurance will, indeed, rebuild BASH House #2. Volunteers will be needed to furnish and decorate said house when it's finished.

For the first two months of this year, East Bay Assistance Fund

has paid out a total of \$5,809.47 to help with food, rent utilities, and medical bills. This represents 25 separate requests. March and April should be close to that same amount.

Raffle tickets are still available to win a trip for two to Reno. Check your favorite watering hole. The winner will be drawn at the Casino Royale, held at Big Mama's Sunday, April 24. All proceeds go to In Memory Foundation.

If Scott, Smoke, Bythell, Sable, Stella, Felicia, Dottie, Penelope, AA (not the Hawaiian lava or bird) don't ring a bell, try TNOATT. It's coming this September. Yours truly in soup and fish and heels? Mercy!

ISE does, indeed, rest on Sundays! I needed some info on its calendar listings for the Turn About Ball and Bingo Night. Five different phone numbers resulted in five different answering machines. So... I left five different messages!

The person who can smile when something has gone wrong obviously has thought of someone to blame it on. I can smile at that. Love, Nez



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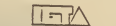
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Expert: '12 Million Americans Have VD'

Women, Children Hit Hardest, He Says

by Marv. Shaw

Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) other than AIDS rage on in the American populace. Michael Edell made this very clear to the Peninsula Business and Professional Association at its March meeting in Palo Alto. Edell, the director of the National STD Hotline for four years, also oversees the Herpes Hotline and the AIDS Hotline for the American Social Health Association (ASHA).

Along with some brutally realistic slides, Edell's presentation was studded with some alarming statistics. "Twelve million Americans have a venereal disease, 33,000 new infections occur each day. One out of every four Americans between 15 and 55 will contract an STD. More children die from venereal disease each year now than died from polio in earlier decades. Two and a half million teenagers have a venereal disease and don't know it," he said.

Edell was emphatic on the point that the women and children suffer the most. Two hundred and ninety-six thousand women have been hospitalized with VD.

Edell followed his statistical picture with information on the prevention, control, and cure of

STDs. It is through ASHA's hotlines and the volunteers who serve as respondents that the information goes out to thousands daily. To the ignorant and anxious, the standard knowledge is dispensed, with teenagers being a large percentage of the callers.

While the surge of chlamydia has caused considerable concern, especially among women, its successful treatment with antibiotics is spelled out to callers, Edell explained.

Fifty percent of all calls have to do with herpes, the BPBA learned. Edell showed how it is a highly variable disease with many different strains. While not yet curable, it is manageable, he averred.

Stanford Women Hold Conference

The Graduate Women's Network at Stanford University announced its third annual Spring Conference, to be held April 30. The organization, which serves and is part of the campus women's community, has titled the conference "Dimensions of Differences: Celebrating the Diversity of Women."

Conference participants will have the chance to hear the interests and concerns of a variety of women and to build bridges across their own differences. Workshops and panels will focus on showing that the diversity of women—in class, race, age, ethnicity, sexuality, and political orientation—is a real resource that can be enriching and unifying, rather than divisive. The conference will stress the importance of being responsive to the concerns and needs of women from different backgrounds in order to maintain the feminist movement.

The conference will be held in Cubberley Auditorium on the Stanford University campus. All events are open to the public and are wheelchair-accessible; child care is available. A donation of \$5 to \$10, sliding scale (\$2-\$5 for students and seniors) is suggested for all participants.

For more information, call the Graduate Women's Network at 723-5829.

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Alameda County Opens AIDS Clinic

The Adult Immunology Clinic at Highland General Hospital (AICH) officially opened March 29. The clinic will be a specialized outpatient clinic dedicated to the treatment of adults with AIDS, ARC, and complications of HIV infection.

Community groups such as East Bay AIDS Resource Organization, Alameda County Black AIDS Coalition, SEIU 616, Vote Health Coalition, Highland health care workers and others lobbied successfully for the establishment of the clinic. The Alameda County Board of Supervisors allocated \$50,000 in start-up funds for AICH.

Edward Allen Seidel, M.D., was hired in November 1987 to serve as the clinic's director and physician. He has spearheaded the implementation of the first dedicated AIDS program at Highland. Dr. Seidel recently stated, "Highland Hospital is a key player in the changing face of the AIDS epidemic we are facing in northern Alameda County and beyond. Because Highland Hospital's traditional patient population includes a large proportion of medically underserved as well as minority individuals, we see our main purpose to be the creation of programs which best serve the needs of these groups."

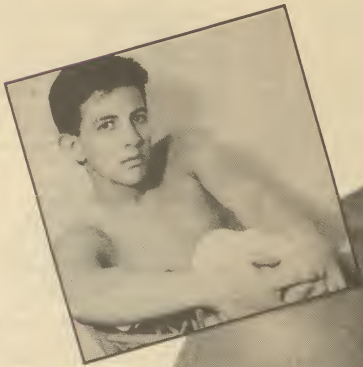
The Adult Immunology Clinic at Highland is opening at a time of critical need for further AIDS treatment services within Alameda County. As of February 1988, there have been 564 diagnosed cases of AIDS within Alameda County.

The services of AICH are available to any adult patient regardless of his/her ability to pay. The clinic is open on Wednesdays for scheduled appointments starting at 12 noon and is located on the third floor of the clinic building at Highland General Hospital, 1411 E. 31st St., Oakland. For additional information, call AICH at 437-4805.

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• **The Virtuoso Concert for AIDS:** featuring Jared Jacoben, John Fenstermaker, and John Balka. St. Mary's Cathedral, Gough and Geary, S.F., 8:30 p.m., \$10 at the door. To benefit the AIDS Emergency Fund and Most Holy Redeemer AIDS Support Group. Call 567-3775 for more information.

• **Dick Kramer Gay Men's Chorale:** music, Unitarian Church, Berkeley, 8 p.m., \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door. Music to be performed includes Kurt Weill's "Das Berliner Requiem," Villa-Lobos' "St. Sebastian Mass," and Langlais' "Salve Regina Mass." Tickets at Headlines.

• **Over Our Heads:** comedy, Once In a Blue Moon, 2565 Franklin Blvd., Sacramento, 9 p.m.

• **See Rock City:** stage performance, the Studio at Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St., S.F., 8:30 p.m., \$8. Written by Demec Garepis; directed by Adele Prandini. Call 861-5079 for tickets.

• **Warren:** stage performance, Sweeny Hall 100, San Jose State University, San Jose, 8 p.m., \$5. Bay Area premiere presented by the SJSU Student Mobilization Against AIDS.

• **Puttin' on the Glitz:** featuring female impersonators and cabaret guys, Sutter's Mill, 77 Battery St., S.F., 9 and 11 p.m., \$10. Call 788-8379 for reservations.

• **Club Infra-Red:** dancing, Scooters, 22 4th St., S.F., 9 p.m.-2 a.m., cover. Sound by Randy Schiller. Call 777-0880 for more information.

• **Sing-Along:** with Frank Banks on the piano, Belden 22, 22 Belden Place, S.F., 6-8 p.m.

• **Dick Fregulla:** music, Piano Zinc, 708 14th St., S.F., 8:30 p.m.

• **Black and White Men Together:** East Bay rap, 3135 Courtland, Oakland, 7:30 p.m. This week's topic is "Black Contribution to Culture." Call 261-7922 for more information.

• **Gay Artists and Writers Collective:** meeting, 7:30 p.m. Call 585-8814 for more information.

• **Safe Sex Is Great Sex:** drop-in workshop for gay and bisexual men, Ellipse, Suite 505, 2121 S. El Camino, San Mateo, 7-10 p.m., free. Presented by the San Mateo Co. AIDS Project. Call 573-2587 for more information.

• **Louise Hay, Bernie Siegel, and Louis Nassaney:** video of recent appearances on Phil Donahue (Hay/Siegel) and Oprah Winfrey (Hay/Nassaney), 273 Page St., 8:15 p.m., free. The videos will be shown after the Friday Night Macrobiotic Community Dinner (\$8/Japanese vegetarian buffet). Call 431-2122 for reservations.

• **Church of the Secret Gospel:** Friday night social, 746 Clementina, Apt. 2, 9 p.m.-midnight. Call 621-1887 for more information.

SATURDAY 23

• **Dick Kramer Gay Men's Chorale:** music, San Francisco MCC, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 8 p.m., \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door. Music to be performed includes Kurt Weill's "Das Berliner Requiem," Villa-Lobos' "St. Sebastian Mass," and Langlais' "Salve Regina Mass." Tickets at Headlines.

• **Bay Area Career Women:** a tribute to Golden Girls, Claremont Resort, 41 Tunnel Rd., Oakland, 9 p.m.-2 a.m., \$25 members, \$35 non-members. No-host bar; music by City Swing. Call the Claremont at 843-3000 for special room rates; call 495-5393 for tickets. An event for women (no refunds).

• **Tom Ammiano:** comedy, Kuumbab Club, Santa Cruz, 8 p.m. An anti-Prop. 69 benefit.

• **Monica Grant:** music/comedy, Sisterspirit Coffeehouse, 1040 Park Ave., San Jose, doors open 8 p.m., show begins 8:30 p.m., \$3-\$7 sliding scale.

• **Club Infra-Red:** dancing (see Friday listing for details).

• **See Rock City:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).

• **Puttin' on the Glitz:** featuring female impersonators and cabaret guys (see Friday listing for details).

• **Warren:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details). This performance ASL interpreted.

• **Wild Fire Band:** country/western music and dancing, Turf Club, 22517 Mission Blvd., Hayward, 9 p.m., no cover. Also Sunday at 6 p.m.

• **Gus Gustavson:** music, Le Piano Zinc, 708 14th St., S.F., 8:30 p.m.

• **AIDS Bike-A-Thon IV:** registration, 18th and Castro, S.F., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

• **AIDS Bike-A-Thon IV:** 25-mile training ride. Meet at 10 a.m. in front of McLaren Lodge in Golden Gate Park, S.F.

• **S.F. Spikes:** team meeting, Galleon, 718 14th St., S.F., 1:30 p.m. Call 821-4248 for more information.

• **S.F. Hiking Club:** circumambulation of Mt. Diablo. Meet at 9:30 a.m. under the big Safeway sign at Market and Dolores, S.F. (East Bay hikers call 421-3854 for meeting time and location.) Bring lunch and water; rain cancels.

• **EastBay FrontRunners:** run in Aquatic Park, Berkeley. Take Hwy. 880 N. to University Ave. Go East on University and turn right on 6th St. (first light). Go one block on 6th and turn right on Addison. Take Addison to Aquatic Park and meet at parking lot on left, Flat 2-mile loop. Call 939-3579 or 261-3246 for more information.

• **Pool Tournament:** the Overpass, 482-A Hayes St., S.F., 4 p.m., \$4 entry fee includes well drink, beer, or wine. S.F. Pool Association 8-Ball rules apply; call 864-6672 for more information.

• **San Francisco FrontRunners:** meet at Stowe Lake Boathouse in Golden Gate Park, S.F., 9 a.m. No-host brunch follows; beginners welcome. Call 922-1435 or 821-3719 for more information.

• **Different Spokes/San Francisco:** decide and ride. Meet at 1 p.m. at McLaren Lodge in Golden Gate Park, S.F., to decide on a ride.

• **Hortiphiles:** hike at Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve and potluck dinner in Palo Alto. Call 325-7212 or (408) 246-1117 for reservations and more information.

• **Fraternal Order of Gays:** game fest, FOG House, 304 Gold Mine Dr., S.F., 8 p.m. Call 641-0999 for more information.

• **Black and White Men Together:** trip to Sacramento Train Museum. Call 261-7922 for more information.

• **Gourmet Vegetarian Potluck:** 7 p.m. in S.F. Call 775-6143 for more information.

• **Finding the Right Man:** one-day workshop, \$25. Call 343-8541 for more information. Sponsored by the Partners Institute.

• **Gay Rescue Mission:** free clothing, bedding, and personal effects for needy given out, 1080 Folsom St., S.F., 2-4 p.m. Call 863-4882 for more information.

• **Gay Rescue Mission:** S&M video festival, 1080 Folsom St., S.F., 11 p.m., \$5. Repeated Sunday at 7 p.m. Call 431-8748 for more information.

• **Church of the Secret Gospel:** phallic fellowship, 746 Clementina St., Apt. 2, S.F., 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Call 621-1887 for more information.

• **HIV+ Social Club:** meeting. Call 863-2301 or 285-4942 for more information.

SUNDAY 24

• **Rock for AIDS:** benefit performance of *American Juke Box*, Marines Memorial Theatre, 609 Sutter St., S.F., 8 p.m., \$20 minimum donation per ticket. Proceeds will benefit the AIDS volunteer and patient care programs at Mt. Zion Hospital and Medical Center. Call 885-7277 for more information.

• **Dick Kramer Gay Men's Chorale:** music, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 1111 O'Farrell St., S.F., 4 p.m., \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door. Kurt Weill's "Das Berliner Requiem," Villa-Lobos' "St. Sebastian Mass," and Langlais' "Salve Regina Mass" will be performed. Tickets at Headlines.

• **T-Dance:** featuring the stars of the Nob Hill Cinema, Club St. John, 170 W. St. John St., San Jose, doors open 4 p.m., show starts 6:30 p.m., cover. Call (408) 947-1667 for more information.

• **Danny Williams and Marga Gomez:** present the Gay Games Physique Team, Big Mama's Cabaret, 22615 Mission Blvd., Hayward, 5 p.m., no cover. Call 881-9310 for more information.



The Dick Kramer Gay Men's Chorale will come ashore this weekend to bring you the music of Kurt Weill
(Photo: Savage Photography)

WEEK



Ginger will do Ginger's Tool April 26

- **New Faces/New Voices:** talent competition, the Galleon, 718 14th St., S.F., 3 p.m. Joseph Taro will host.
- **Peter Alfano and Annemarie Balinger:** music, the Galleon, 718 14th St., S.F., 5 p.m., \$5.
- **Eddie Blandini and David Lisle:** music, the Galleon, 718 14th St., S.F., 8 p.m., \$6.
- **Black Orpheus:** music, El Rio, 3158 Mission St., S.F., 4-8 p.m., \$5. Brazilian music.
- **Seth Montfort:** music, San Francisco MCC, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 4 p.m., \$5. All-American piano recital of Ives, Montfort, Gershwin, Barber, and Gottschalk.
- **Variety Show:** Bench and Bar, 120 11th St., Oakland, 10 p.m., no cover. Singing, dancing, comedy, and impersonation.
- **See Rock City:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).
- **Puttin' on the Glitz:** featuring female impersonators and cabaret guys, 8 p.m., \$8 (see Friday listing for details).

- **Warren:** stage performance, 4 and 8 p.m. (see Friday listing for details).
- **Jones Street Follies:** female impersonation, Black Rose, 335 Jones St., S.F., shows 10 and 11 p.m., \$2.
- **Faith Winthrop and Gus Gustavson:** music, Piano Zinc, 708 14th St., S.F., 8:30 p.m.
- **AIDS Bike-A-Thon IV:** registration, 18th and Castro, S.F., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- **S.F. FrontRunners:** GayRun revisited. Meet at 10 a.m. in the parking lot of the polo field in Golden Gate Park, S.F. Call 922-1435 or 821-3719 for more information.
- **Arcadia Bodybuilding Society:** contest prep, City Athletic Club, 2500 Market St., S.F., 6:30-8:30 p.m., \$5. Call 431-6254 for more information.
- **AIDS Bike-A-Thon IV:** 75-mile training ride. Meet at 9 a.m. at McLaren Lodge in Golden Gate Park, S.F.

- **Volleyball for All:** volleyball for beginners, Golden Gate Park, S.F., noon to 5 p.m. Sponsored by X-T-A-C Volleyball. Call 995-2736 for more information.
- **South Bay Lesbian and Gay Volleyball:** open gym, \$2. Call (408) 732-2306 for more information.
- **Gay Volleyball:** Petro Jr. High, 19th and DeHaro, 11 a.m.
- **Different Spokes/San Francisco:** decide and ride. Meet at McLaren Lodge in Golden Gate Park, S.F., at 10 a.m.
- **Tsunami Masters Swim Team:** practice, King Pool, 3rd and Carroll streets, S.F., 10 a.m. Call 285-5659 for more information.
- **Women's Gathering:** for older lesbians (60+) and their friends, Francis of Assisi, 145 Guerrero St., S.F., 3-6 p.m., free. Music, dancing, and games; please bring refreshments to share. Call 626-7000 for more information.
- **Black and White Men Together:** hike around Lake Chabot; bring lunch. Call 261-7922 for more information.
- **Gay Rescue Mission:** AA organizing committee for gay street alcoholics, 1080 Folsom St., S.F., 2:30 p.m. Call 863-4882 for more information.
- **Body Psychology: Motion and (E)motion:** workshop facilitated by Steve Kuttner and John Marino, noon-4 p.m. in S.F. Call 864-7820 to register.
- **Living With HIV/AIDS/ARC:** drop-in group for gay and bisexual men, Suite 505, 2121 S. El Camino, San Mateo, 7-9 p.m. Call 573-2587 for more information.

MONDAY 25

- **Cabaret Gold Awards:** 10th annual, Venetian Room, Fairmont Hotel, S.F., doors open 6:30 p.m., show begins 7:30 p.m., \$40 and \$75. With Charles Pierce, Val Diamond, Weslia Whitfield, Will Durst, Leola Jiles, Sharon McNight, Lynda Bergen, and Faye Carol. Tickets at Headlines or by calling 386-0604. Call 431-0253 for the Galleon Solution.

- **Surviving and Thriving:** Pat Parker and Avotcja in an evening of poetry, Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St., S.F., 7:30 p.m., \$4-\$6 sliding scale. Call 282-9246 for more information.

- **Bay Area Gay and Lesbian Band:** rehearsal, B Street Bar, 236 S. B St., San Mateo, 7:30 p.m. Call 558-9693 for more information.

- **S.F. Spikes:** soccer practice, West Sunset Soccer Fields, Sunset Blvd., Noriega, and 39th St., S.F., 6 p.m. Call 821-4248 for more information.

- **S.F. Jacks:** fetish night, 890 Folsom St., S.F., doors open 7:30-8:30 p.m., \$5.

- **Leathermen's/SM Support Group:** meeting, Room 204, San Francisco MCC, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 7:30 p.m., donation requested.

- **Buddy Connection:** safe sex workshop for gay and bisexual men, San Francisco MCC, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 7-10 p.m. Call 863-AIDS for more information.

- **Battle Fatigue:** support group for primary care givers based on principals of attitudinal healing, Rest Stop, 134 Church St., S.F., 5-7 p.m. Call 621-REST for more information.

TUESDAY 26

- **Ginger Does Ginger's Tool:** one-man drag show, Ginger's Too, 43 6th St., S.F., \$1.29 for Every Penny Counts.

- **Arthur Evans:** author of *The God of Ecstasy* will speak on "Anal Sex in Ancient Greece," the Love That Dares Bookshop, 506 Castro St., S.F., 7:30 p.m., free. Booksigning will follow.

- **Diablo Valley AIDS Center:** second annual AIDS fundraiser, Tommy T's Comedy House, 8 p.m. Call 827-2960 or 686-DVAC for more information.

- **Samba Pagode:** music, El Rio, 3158 Mission St., S.F., 9 p.m.-midnight, no cover. Samba; plus videos from Rio.

WEDNESDAY 27

- **Marga Gomez, Danny Williams, and Rene Hicks:** comedy, El Rio, 3158 Mission St., S.F., 8-10 p.m., \$4.

- **Gifts From Above (And Other Stories We Don't Tell):** storytelling with Steve Kastel, 455-10th Performance, 455 10th St., S.F., 8:30 p.m., free. Call 864-4425 for more information.

- **Daytimers:** trip to the Farmer's Market. Meet at 11 a.m. in the courtyard at 261 Fell St., S.F. Call 832-4368 for more information.

- **S.F. Spikes:** soccer practice, West Sunset Soccer Fields, Sunset Blvd., Noriega, and 39th St., S.F., 6 p.m. Call 821-4248 for more information.

- **Living Well With AIDS/ARC:** support group based on the principals of attitudinal healing, Rest Stop, 134 Church St., S.F., 4-6 p.m. Call 621-REST for more information.

THURSDAY 28

- **Feathers and Flesh:** show, N'Touch, 1548 Polk St., S.F., 9 p.m., cover.

- **See Rock City:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).

- **Puttin' on the Glitz:** with female impersonators and cabaret guys, 9 p.m., \$8 (see Friday listing for details).

- **Gifts From Above (And Other Stories We Don't Tell):** storytelling with Steve Kastel (see Wednesday listing for details).

- **Black and White Men Together:** political awareness meeting, 1350 Waller St., S.F., 7:30 p.m. The AIDS initiatives will be discussed; plus presentations from representatives of presidential candidates. Call 931-BWMT for more information.

- **Older Gay Men's Friendship Group:** meeting, Friendship Room, 711 Eddy St., S.F., 2:45 p.m. Call 626-7000 for more information.

- **San Francisco FrontRunners:** run. Meet at McLaren Lodge in Golden Gate Park at 6:30 p.m. Call 922-1435 or 821-3719 for more information.

- **HIV Antibody Positive Drop-In Information and Support Group:** for S.F. Men's Health Study participants, Room 219, Children's Hospital Outpatient Building, 3801 Sacramento St., S.F., 7-9 p.m. Call 750-6160 for more information.

JAPANTOWN BOWL

SUMMER BOWLING LEAGUES



Monday Community League

This league bowls on Mondays at 8:45 p.m. This is the oldest gay bowling league in S.F. League starts on June 6, five bowlers to a team. Cost is \$9.00—80% handicap.

Tuesday Community League

This league bowls on Tuesdays at 8:45 p.m. This is currently the largest gay league at Japantown Bowl and is expected to grow fast. League starts on May 31, five bowlers to a team. Cost is \$9.00—80% handicap.

Wednesday Community League

League bowls on Wednesdays at 8:45 p.m.—always a popular night for bowling. League starts on May 25, five bowlers to a team. Cost is \$8.00 per week—80% handicap.

Thursday Community League

This is the only weekday gay league in the city—bowls on Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. League starts on June 16, three bowlers to a team. Cost is \$6.50—90% handicap.

Friday Mexico Vacation League

This league ends the season with a trip to Mexico as its grand finale. Everything is included in your league fees each week, including the trip. There is nothing extra to pay. League starts on June 24, four to a team. Cost is \$20.00 per week (includes trip)—90% handicap. Trip to Mexico will be in April 1989.

Sunday Reno League

Everyone in this league will go to Reno at the end of the season. Reno trip is included in league fees. League bowls at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$11.00 per week. League starts on June 19—90% handicap.

These leagues have all been designed for the novice bowler as well as the experienced bowler—they're fun for all, regardless of your level of ability.

The emphasis is on fun!!!

If you wish further information or you want to join any of these leagues, contact: Terry Kaplan, (415) 921-6200.



BAY AREA REPORTER ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

'A Short, Happy Dream'

Puig's 'Kiss of the Spider Woman' Comes to the Eureka Theatre

by Wendell Ricketts

Tossed into a pool of water, a two-pound rock will sink, but a two-pound block of wood is likely to float. This phenomenon will come as no surprise to anyone acquainted, even in the most casual of terms, with the physical properties of common objects. What may be surprising, however, is that we aren't always familiar with the language necessary to describe such an effect. Many people, in fact, would still insist the rock sank because it was "heavier," even though mass and density, and not weight, are the critical factors. Weight, rendered as the effect of gravity upon mass, is a rather more subjective reality.

This rock-and-block preamble has been the scenic route to an observation of the obvious: The ability to conceptualize what we experience is bound, at least in part, to language-based preconceptions—to packets of perception, one might say—that may or may not lend accuracy to the description of a given situation.

No profound insight, this, but one especially suited to an evaluation of *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, Manuel Puig's novel, award-winning motion picture, and now his play, receiving its San Francisco premiere at Eureka Theatre through May 15.

Moviegoyers will recall the Hector Babenco/Raul Julia/William Hurt story of two men—one a political prisoner, one the "corrupter of a minor's morals"—imprisoned together in an unspecified Latin American country. Although their crimes are never explicitly described, there is the overarching sense that their incarceration is unjust. That simple premise sets the stage; yet with-



in the richer and perhaps more dangerous realm of live theater, *Kiss* reaches across parallel dimensions.

In one, the claustrophobic jail cell in which Valentin (Jeffrey King) and Molina (Hector Correa) are imprisoned is not the central world, it is the only world. Outside their cell are shadowy but indomitable presences—the "movement," the military, fate—but these are forces rather than personages. Except for the barest of details, Puig does not concern himself with explaining how his characters came to share their predicament or to be entwined in what can only be seen as an inexorable destiny.

Molina and Valentin bring with them—as do any two strangers who meet—the persistence of memory, their private longings, and the twistings of fortune that, like a potter's hands, have

cell—that will, when the effect is complete, appear to hover in the air. A series of skillfully placed mirrors creates the illusion that the bars of their cell extend infinitely into the vanishing distance, a universe made entirely of prisons.)

This is *Kiss* at its most internal, but there is a broader context. In 1976 a military Golpe (coup d'etat) ousted the government of Juan Peron's second wife, Isabel, and installed a ruthless, right-wing dictatorship at Argentina's helm. It was the country's sixth coup in 21 years.

The Golpe brought with it a triumvirate of generals dedicated to smashing the leftist elements in Argentinian society. They presided over seven years of systematic repression, torture, and murder that were largely ignored by the world. Somewhere between 10,000 and 30,000 "subversives" disappeared in Argentina during those years, though their mutilated bodies often washed up along the banks of the Plata River that forms the eastern border of Buenos Aires province.

The agenda of the military junta was succinctly stated by General Iberico Saint-Jean, one of the leaders of the Golpe, who declared, "First we'll kill all the subversives. Then we'll kill the collaborators. Then the sympathizers. Then the undecided. And finally we'll kill the indifferent."

Indeed, the Argentinian military murdered an average of eight people a day between 1976 and 1983; yet no death sentences were ever signed by the courts; no public executions were ever held.

REAL CIRCUMSTANCES

It is this Argentina with which Puig is familiar, the Argentina wherein many of Puig's works, including *Kiss*, are still banned; the Buenos Aires where Villa Devoto Prison (the actual site of Valentin and Molina's cell) is located. Set against the backdrop of Argentina's "dirty war"—so, to say, within a specific gravitational field—*Kiss* acquires significant weight.

As director Susan Marsden notes, "It's important that this story be placed in a historical context. These are real people in real circumstances, where they are helpless and completely terrorized. That such places have existed in the world—do exist—raises the stakes tremendously."

Happily, Puig does not insist that either the personal or the political view must predominate. Instead, they inform one another, and one of the shimmering, nearly evasive beauties of *Kiss* is that Puig makes it possible to straddle both realities.

Yet such a reconciliation flows perhaps more naturally in fiction than in life. Puig embellished his novel with a long essay, written entirely in footnotes, that is an analysis of theories of sexual identity and is Puig's attempt to engrave a place for homosexuals in the leftist intaglio. But the organized left—indeed, even in San Francisco—has not been eager to encompass the oppression of homosexuals within a wider theory of social or class oppression.

The interface between the left and the gay movement, then, doubtless a painful friction for

(Continued on page 36)

See Rock City

Tennessee Williams Would Have Loved It

by Joy Schulenburg

If Tennessee Williams had been a lesbian, he would probably have written something very like *See Rock City*. The play by Demece Garepis, premiering at The Studio at Theatre Rhinoceros, contains many classic Williams elements. It also manages to avoid some easy stereotyping in its portrayal of Southern women.

See Rock City is essentially a coming-of-age story, involving three generations of a small-town family. Its setting is Rock City, Tennessee, a mountaintop tourist trap near Chattanooga. The location, as well as the social context of 1962, is heavily stressed in the publicity yet, strangely enough, neither one really matters all that much. It could be any small, claustrophobic town in America any time in the last half century. The face of prejudice changes very slowly—there are always

new issues to contend with. It is this very timelessness that gives *See Rock City* a sort of classic appeal. The situations and characters presented are recognizable to the audience; the drama is a human drama that transcends its setting.

Ostensibly a tale of a young girl's coming-out process, *See Rock City*'s real strength is in its presentation of family dynamics. From the onset there is little doubt that Angel will eventually own her sexuality.

The real center of conflict is Angel's mother, Ruby. Ruby is the faded belle, a desperate beauty perpetually embattled—with her mother, her daughter, her estranged husband Roy. It is her essential childishness that defangs Ruby's sharp tongue and biting comments. When she warns Angel away from the

(Continued on page 36)



Ann Block and Myrian Eusebio in *See Rock City*

(Photo: S. Cohen)

He Plans To Step Down As Chorale Leader

Dick Kramer Prepares Spring Concert, Drops Bombshell

When the Dick Kramer Gay Men's Chorale presents its "Spring Concert 1988" this weekend, more than just the repertoire will be unusual. In a surprise announcement, Kramer, who founded the group and has so far been its only conductor, said it would be his last appearance with his namesake chorale. While the concert's featured work, the Bay Area premiere of Kurt Weill/Bert Brecht *Das Berliner Requiem*, may seem to mirror Kramer's departure from the gay music scene with a requiem's finality, the conductor stated emphatically, "This is a leavetaking which is not a farewell, but an evolution." Kramer is moving on to pursue other artistic challenges.

Although Kramer has been a formative and integral part of the Bay Area's gay music scene for many years, the news of his departure from the Dick Kramer Gay Men's Chorale should not overshadow the musical import of the group's "Spring Concert 1988" (to be given three performances at various locales this weekend; see calendar). Kramer chose the repertoire for this concert well before he decided to make it his final appearance with the group. He's long wanted to perform *The Berlin Requiem*, which speaks in almost direct address to the gay men of contemporary San Francisco. The conjunction of such a personal work with Kramer's last appearance with his group is providing the conductor and his singers with a moving experience.

"I've known the piece for ten years," Kramer said, "and it's interesting that it should be the last thing I do with this group. There's a finality about it, as with all requiems, and yet hope."

The Berlin Requiem was written in Germany in 1928, and as its name suggests, is not a religious work. The authors meant the title to be ironic; they were making a statement about death in the way city dwellers feel it. The piece is a brief (25 minutes) series of memorials and epitaphs of "real" people - it is a secular requiem.

"Worship the grass and the beasts that have life and must perish," Brecht wrote in the opening of *The Berlin Requiem*. "Like you they partake of life's feasts; like you they must also perish."

Man was no better or worse, no "higher" or better a being than any other thing on Earth, Brecht meant. Yet the harsh brevity of his style made him seem cynical when he wrote in this ironically titled choral anthem "Great Hymn of Thanksgiving," "Scan the Earth: You're a thing of no worth and may calmly expire."

Sounds tough, but it isn't, and that's what Dick Kramer finds so moving and meaningful to gay men today. "In a subtle way," said Kramer, "Brecht speaks to the community with a negativity that can be turned to a positive." Kramer's background takes in such esoteric works as *The Tibetan Book of the Dead*, a long-standing practice of Zen principles, and 30 years' training and involvement with Sensory Awareness. He's incorporated this into his vocal coaching techniques, with the result that his music



Dick Kramer

(Photo: Savage Photography)

making can be a spiritual as well as a musical sharing among the members of his choruses. Sensory Awareness is closely allied to Zen in that it attempts to integrate body and mental faculties. The result is a fuller human being in the moment, forgetting about the past and the future. "This is great for the flow of music, which is why I value it so highly," said Kramer. It also has a direct parallel to Brecht, who may not have known he was expressing such basic Zen ideals. Without ego, the pain of our death is absent, an idea Brecht calmly made the moral of a later play: "No one dies when you die," he concluded.

Nihilistic Terms

In Brecht's typical fashion, the romantic beauty of his poetry and the hope of his message are couched in ostensibly nihilistic terms. "But Brecht's 'Chorus of Thanksgiving' is not cynical," Kramer explained. "It ultimately gives a kind of hope. We live in a paradox all the time: the ego is here and not here. The hope is that we still have the choice between life and death, and there's so much choosing of death. One becomes a victim real quick - choosing life is hard work. The larger thing Brecht is saying is that we can choose life or death along the way of being."

That this "Hymn of Thanksgiving" should be set to music by Weill which recalls the strong declamatory portions of "Mahagonny" adds further force and asringency to the work. Yet songs which follow soften the work's tone, in the sympathetic epitaphs Brecht offers for those dead who rejoin the Earth. Originally written to commemorate those who died on the barricades of WWI, the saints and martyrs it names have now become those who have died of AIDS.

The *Requiem* will feature Buddy Syms, tenor, and Mark Jones, baritone, as soloists with the men's choir. The dark tones and martial elements of *The Berlin Requiem*, sung by the male voices of the Chorale, "make for exciting, turn-of-music," said Kramer. "The harmonic structures of Weill's music is so exciting, so rugged in that German expressionistic way."

The first half of the program will include two other frequently heard works, the *St. Sebastian Mass* by Keiter Villa-Lobos, and Jean Langlais' *Salve Regina Mass*. The Villa-Lobos mass is an accapella work, and not at all like the composer's more famous *Bachianas Brasilieras*. Religious in nature, it uses dissonance for dramatic effect. The Langlais is built on plain chant, with abrupt harmonies to add drama. Concluding the program will be four Brahms *Liebeslieder Waltzer* and Schubert's *Mondnacht*. "That's as far as I'll go toward the pops," Kramer quipped.

Flower Child

Kramer's career has been marked with a propensity toward musically demanding works of the 20th century. Originally from Los Angeles, he trained in New York, and won accolades as a soloist with the Carmel Bach Festival, the Roger Wagner Chorale, and on a State Department tour with the Santa Fe Opera through Europe. He was a soloist in a Stravinsky-conducted performance of *Oedipus Rex*. As soloist with the Wagner Chorale, he toured Central America - even then forced to skip Panama because of an uprising. Then he settled in San Francisco, putting in his time as a "Flower Child," but still singing. Robert Commandant praised his "sensitive singing" in Handel and Bach, and

(Continued on page 36)

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MOVIES

Canadians Play Rough at the 'Zoo'

by Steve Warren

Last month, *Night Zoo* (*Un Zoo la Nuit*) won an unprecedented 13 Genie awards, Canada's Oscars, leaving only two (Best Actress and Best Supporting Actress) for *I've Heard the Mermaids Singing*. Our Academy makes mistakes too.

Night Zoo, the first feature by Jean-Claude Lauzon, a reportedly gay Canadian, is an uneasy mix of oil and water, a thriller and a story of a man and his father coming to understand each other after a lifetime of love-hate.

Marcel (Giles Maheu)—"Stick" to his friends—is introduced in prison where he's doing two years after taking the fall in a drug bust. To remind him he owes them \$200,000, his associates on the outside send Stick a "gift" in prison, a muscular brute who rapes him in his cell with a guard's assistance.

A blond American (Jerry Snell) in another cell is upset by this. Later he's waiting to give Marcel a parting hug when he's paroled, promising to meet him at a future date as arranged.

George (Lorne Brass), a sadistic cop, tries to play pickup-Stick in a cafe while Stick's cruising a woman. They wind up in the toilet, where after erotic preparations Georges is beaten and humiliated, brought to his knees in more ways than one.

It turns out that Georges is the new partner of another cop, Charlie (Germain Houde), who is Stick's partner-in-crime.



Lorne Brass and Gilles Maheu in *Night Zoo*

Stick still likes sticking it to his old girlfriend, but he visits his blond friend, a George Michael clone, in prison to confirm their plan ("No fag is gonna be able to resist me," Blondie says) which, when it comes off, seems impossible for them to have worked out so long before the variables were in place.

Sequences of violent sex and sexy violence are interspersed with long, slow, well-acted but essentially uninteresting scenes of Marcel's reconciliation with his father (Roger Le Bel). Whichever you're in the mood for, you only get half a movie.

There's more gay than nongay

sex, but it's of the sleaze-and-tease variety and associated with criminal elements. Whether hetero or homo, sex is seen as a brutal and joyless enterprise in *Night Zoo*, giving the title the extra meaning that we're all animals.

Tenderness is reserved for the father-and-son segments, with the exception of the blond, who really seems to care for Marcel: "If you're ever down in Nebraska, stop in my place and say hi, okay? You've always got an American friend."

The action concludes about 20 minutes before the movie, which winds down with Marcel trying to

make his father's passing comfortable. Things get really strange by the final scene, which can make your imagination run wild.

The dialogue in Lauzon's screenplay is mostly in subtitled French with a touch of Franglais, except for the American's lines.

Marcel, incidentally, lives in a large, *Divya*-inspired space which bears no relation to the building that's supposed to house it. Most of the film's elements are likewise derivative, without improving on their sources.

I first saw *Night Zoo* at last year's Mill Valley Film Festival and recently gave it another look, but the virtues the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television saw still eluded me.

★ ★ ½
Night Zoo
Four-Star Theatre

Tennessee Williams' 'Camino Real' At City College

City Theatre will present *Camino Real* by Tennessee Williams and directed by Susan Jackson. The play will open on Friday, April 15.

In Williams' words, "More than any other work that I have done, this play seemed to me like the construction of another world, a separate existence." *Camino Real* takes place in the country of our dreams and hopes and epitomizes Williams' creative insight into the human condition.

Camino Real will play on Fridays and Saturdays, April 15-23, at 8 p.m., with a Sunday matinee on April 24 at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5 general and \$4 for students and seniors. Group discounts are available. City Theatre is located on the City College of San Francisco campus on the corner of Phelan and Judson avenues near Ocean Avenue. For tickets and information, call 239-3132.

Mount Zion To 'Rock for AIDS'

The Mount Zion AIDS Volunteer Support Services will present on Sunday, April 24, at 3 p.m. "Rock for AIDS," a performance of *American Juke Box*, the 1950s and 1960s music revue earning rave reviews at the Marines Memorial Theatre, 609 Sutter at Mason, San Francisco.

Proceeds from the performance will benefit the AIDS volunteer and patient care programs at Mount Zion Hospital and Medical Center. Minimum donation per ticket is \$20. For reservations, call Michael Reed, public affairs, (415) 885-7277. For information on becoming a Mount Zion AIDS volunteer, call Maureen O'Neil, patient and family services, (415) 885-7529.



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STAGE

Bring Your Brains, Costumes — 'Pulp Playhouse' Is Here

by David Perry

Saturday nights will be very alive for the next four weeks. Beginning on April 23 at 11 p.m. The Eureka Theatre Company will host *Pulp Playhouse*, a series of improvisational comedy performances that promise to be something of a cross between David Letterman and the *Rocky Horror Picture Show*.

"I've always had a real love for comic books," explains Pulp Playhouse creator Brian Lohmann. *Pulp Playhouse* is a way to bring the same sort of cheap, trashy energy of pulp paperbacks and comic books to the stage. The language is fast and furious, and the characters are larger than life."

Each night, a cast of eight will improvise several stories based on suggested titles from the audience. Every evening will have a different theme. April 23 is "Horror," April 30, "Espionage," "Science Fiction" comes on May 7, and "Cab Driver Confidential" on May 14. Audience members are encouraged to come in costume and help set the mood for each performance.

"This should be like a gathering of the clan to tell stories," says Lohmann. "The audience should view themselves as equals

with the performers."

Pulp Playhouse is comprised of some of the Bay Area's finest improvisors and comic actors: Michael McShane, Reed Kirk Rahlmann, and Brian Lohmann from the comedy group Faultline. Rafe Chase and Regina Saisa from the improv group Riot Squad. Barbara Scott from the Screaming Memes. O-lan Jones from the Overtone Theatre, and Stephanie Hunt from ACT. Original music will be provided by J. Raoul Brady.

Lohmann, who often deals in "improvisation as a sporting event" sees it this way.

"This is a great way to get people back into the theatre. A lot of people don't go to live performances because they think theatre is too 'tony' for them. This gives them the best of both worlds—the thrill of improvisation and the discipline of stage acting."

For those of you who thought "camp" was dead, this seems to put such fears to rest for at least four weekends. Tickets for *Pulp Playhouse* can be reserved by calling the Eureka Theatre, 2730 16th Street, at 558-9811 or Brian Lohmann at 922-9375. Series tickets for all four shows are \$20 in advance, \$6 for single performances. Showtime for all four evenings is 11 p.m.

Artist's Drawings 'Obsessed by the Pleasure of Flesh'

by Mark I. Chester

Zeichnungen" the flyer shouts amidst its vibrating black lines, announcing a show of drawings of the male nude through April 28 by 27-year-old German-born artist Michael Goepferd at the Walt Whitman Bookstore. For Goepferd, these large scale charcoal drawings of the male anatomy are concrete examples of his overriding obsession with the pleasure of flesh. "Zeichnungen" simply means drawings, but there is nothing simple about this foreign sojourner exploring the ins and outs of San Francisco's gay community or his work.

Stereotypically blonde-haired, blue-eyed with a strong German accent, an energetic laugh and a robust body that looks like one of his drawings, Goepferd has traveled widely but feels a special attraction toward San Francisco. "Traveling to Asia was like traveling to my spirit, but traveling to San Francisco was like traveling to my body. I always knew I was gay, but San Francisco helped me accept myself and my sexuality. Allowing me to let loose and be what I am," he comments. "San Francisco is where America really works it out," Goepferd confides conspiratorily before launching into a storm of laughter.

Although he grew up in a small town, Goepferd has lived in Berlin between his visits to the United States. Although Berlin is Germany's cultural hub and a center of gay activity, Goepferd remembers its East/West confrontations and its big city aggressiveness. In contrast he looks to San Francisco for a more compact, laid back atmosphere, that he perceives as almost Mediterranean. "San Francisco is removed from all the troubles," he smiles. "You have the ocean, endless space and this incredible sky. I don't feel crowded here. I always knew I had to come back and live longer here."

'TO OPEN MYSELF'

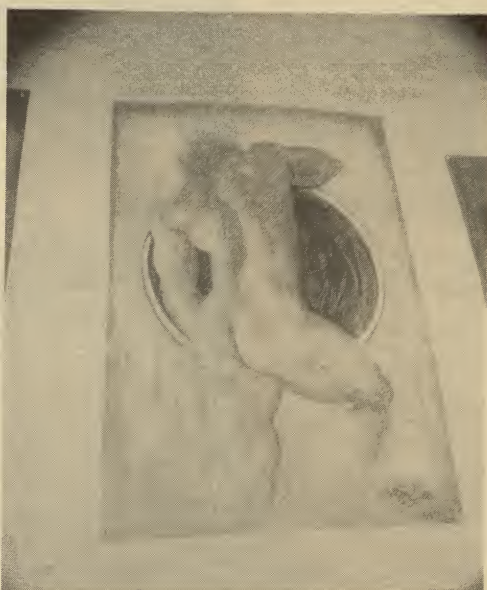
Goepferd has been doing art ever since he can remember although his interest has become far more serious lately. He says that, to him, art is like... "life. It is a tool to let myself go; to open myself and reflect myself onto paper and then confront myself with that reflection. It is very important that the spirit and body are in harmony. Whether I am dealing with wishes, or sexuality or my sense of beauty, this harmony is what comes out in my work."

During the last five years, Goepferd's artistic explorations have focused on the nude male figure. "The male figure is like a landscape," Goepferd tells me. "You can get lost in the details. Pick one or two muscles. Bring them together and let them play there like a valley and two hills. The figure is as powerful and as full of character as nature can be."

It's not surprising therefore to

Eroticism National

The second Eroticism National open competition and exhibition is open to all media. It is a juried contest with \$1,000 in awards, and the slide deadline is July 1. For a prospectus, send a stamped, self-addressed, business-size envelope to Alonso/Sullivan Gallery, 207 Harvard East, Seattle, WA 98102. ●



An example of Michael Goepferd's work (Photo: Rink)

discover that Goepferd has studied Greek and Renaissance art and sculpture. His nearly twenty drawings on display at Walt Whitman are studies of the male nude on large sheets of brown butcher paper. Using mostly black charcoal and white highlights against the brown background with occasional flashes of background color, Goepferd creates an overwhelming sense of dimension, volume and fleshy reality that contradicts the paper's strict two dimensional surface.

Goepferd's drawings are like archetypal fragments of sculptures: faceless, missing body parts and barely contained by the edges of the paper. "I concentrate on the body. What I want to say, I don't want to say with the face because the face overpowers the body. People would be drawn to the face before the body. You know we still see each other only with our clothes on. We are still afraid of our own nakedness. If we are in touch with ourselves, our souls and our beings, we are not afraid of being naked," he notes.

Goepferd insists that his drawings are as true to life and organic as they are wildly emotional. Beyond the power of their emotional impact, he is proud of the harmony that he shows between the body's physical appearance and its inner spiritual being. It is a harmony that he strives to actualize in his own life.

Through activities with other gay men in San Francisco, such as the Golden Gate Wrestling Club and the Gay Men's Sketch Class, in addition to working out, gardening and experimental theater, Goepferd feels that he has "found my peace in San Francisco by bringing my art, sports, and the needs of my body together."

For Michael Goepferd, the body is the tool by which he confronts himself. It is hard not to be drawn into his warm approach. "It is such a rush," he grins with a sparkle. "It is as if I am going through that skin with my eyes and it's almost as if I'm touching that skin and trying to understand it with my eyes. I am really in it. With it. Obsessed by the pleasure of flesh." ●

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How can the majesty of the Eiffel Tower, the architectural grace of the Taj Mahal or the ancient ruins of the Parthenon hold a candle to the puerile excitement one receives while walking through a Korean neighborhood in Los Angeles, noticing a sign for the "Yong Dong Billiards Parlor," and fantasizing about all the pubescent Asian boys who must be gathered inside, eagerly stroking their cue sticks in anticipation of taking aim at those big, round balls on the pool table!

Is there trouble in River City? Not at all.

Like the rest of life in LA-land, Southern California's operatic scene is filled with amazing contradictions. In downtown Los Angeles, an opera company in its second year of existence is playing to packed houses while offering the most daring mix of repertoire to be found on the West Coast. In another community which, less than a half century ago, boasted little more than lima bean fields to its name, a magnificent new theatre has been erected next to one of the world's largest

shopping centers. Within spitting distance of John Wayne International Airport, a brand new opera company whose coffers are filled to overflowing is performing for thousands of contented new subscribers.

Have we entered Orange County's answer to the Twilight Zone? Have operatic aliens descended from Mars? Not at all. In San Diego, a well-established opera company which recently suffered a slump of artistic doldrums is now making an exciting comeback by presenting carefully packaged and solidly staged performances. Not only have subscription sales risen by 20 percent and single ticket sales rocketed, there is a palpable level of excitement and satisfaction to be felt during performances at the Civic Theatre. Less than a mile from Horton Plaza, San Diego's Old Globe is gloating over its contribution to the Broadway success of Stephen Sondheim's *Into The Woods*.

Do you remember the old joke about the difference between yogurt and Southern California (yogurt was presumed to have a more active culture)? The amazing truth is that so much energy is being poured into the cause of opera and musical theater in Southern California that a renaissance of musical culture is taking place along Route 5 which almost seems too good to be true.

SATAN VISITS SAN DIEGO

Just when America's God-fearing Christians found themselves agonizing over Jimmy Swaggart's mortal sins and wor-

rying whether the Devil incarnate could force Pat Robertson out of the Republican presidential primaries, Satan himself popped up near the Mexican border. Intent on proving that, like Burger King, he is everywhere, the old boy took a break from supervising some illegal drug-trafficking activities to demonstrate his evil talents on the stage of San Diego's Civic Theatre.

Surrounded by Earl Staley's intensely-painted sets, the familiar tale of the devil's influence on a horny, aging philosopher was re-enacted in a production of Gounod's *Faust* which had originally been conceived for the Houston Grand Opera. Having already been seen by audiences in Tulsa and Seattle, this HCO production is holding up extremely well. Much of the credit goes to Francesca Zambello's sensitive direction, which transformed a traditionally sluggish French opera into an effective piece of stagecraft.

Karen Keltner's conducting helped to make this *Faust* a much livelier affair than many previous performances. But what was extremely rewarding was the sensation that San Diego's audience *knew* that it was getting a good show. At the matinee I attended, there was not only hearty applause after each act, the audience seemed to be discussing the performance during intermissions with more than the usual level of interest. It seemed as if, in addition to the use of Super-titles, the company's educational efforts within the community



Soprano Diana Soviero and tenor Richard Leach gave the devil his due in the San Diego Opera's production of Gounod's *Faust*

have paid off handsomely and the San Diego Opera's audience is now dramatically involved in the company's artistic product.

One could hardly quibble with the cast contracted by General Director Ian Campbell. In the title role, tenor Richard Leach looked and sounded more youthful than most opera audiences would dare to expect. Although there were times when Diana Doviero's voice lacked the surety it may have had five years ago, the soprano's dramatic skills are so intense that she can sweep an audience into the theatrical situation and spark genuine concern for as simplistic a character as Marguerite. Although nowhere as dramatically convincing as Soviero's doomed heroine, bass Ferruccio Furlanetto's suave Mephistopheles roared with demonic authority.

Supporting soloists made strong contributions as well. Mezzo-soprano Jane Bunnell was an ardent Siebel while Judith Christin's lusty portrayal of Marthe was right on target. Although a bit too stiff for my taste, David Malis performed well as Marguerite's brother, Valentin.

SMILING DOWN THE NILE

Since grand opera is a relatively new phenomenon in Orange County, the opening night of the season, particularly when it involves a new production of *Aida*, has the word "event" stamped all over it. In an era when the National Endowment for the Arts can't get a used condom (much less a decent budget) from the white House, I found it absolutely amazing to discover a letter from Ronald Reagan (in which the President extended his best wishes to Opera Pacific's audience) appearing in Opera Pacific's commemorative program. Then conservative folks in Orange County really know how to stack the cards in their favor and, with a superb new theatre at their disposal, this two-year-old opera company is chugging along nicely toward success.

The opening night of Opera Pacific's second season proved to be a fascinating experience for me. Although Nicholas Muni's staging and Ruben Dominguez's Radames left plenty of room for improvement, the rest of the opening night performance was quite commendable. Using Wolfram Skalicki's sets and Susan Tsu's costumes (which

have, to date, been seen by audiences in Miami, Syracuse, Indianapolis, Louisville, Toronto, Fort Worth and Detroit) the evening contained several pleasant surprises.

For one thing, the acoustic baffling in the Orange County Performing Arts Center creates a level of sound which is so rich, so lush and so theatrically alive that even the meanest-spirited music critic could be seduced into thinking that the singers were miked (they were not). John Mauceri's animated conducting struck me as extremely lyrical and theatrical. In fact, when the conductor wasn't booging on the podium, he even showed a few moments of restraint!

Some exceptional singing (combined with the theatre's excellent acoustics) created the impression that Leona Mitchell hadn't sounded so good in years. Not only was the soprano's *Aida* a joy to hear and behold, her performance was matched at every step by the vocally formidable Amneris of Dolora Zajic. This graduate of the Merola program (who has since sung Azucena in the San Diego Opera's *Il Trovatore* and tried out the title role in Tchaikovsky's *Joan of Arc* for the Nevada Opera) continues to grow, both vocally and dramatically. One eagerly anticipates the talented mezzo-soprano's first Adalgisa.

Elsewhere in the cast, Mario Storce appeared as the King of Egypt while two of Opera Pacific's apprentice artists (Anita Protich and Thomas M. Shiskobsky) sang the roles of the High Priestess and the messenger. The towering artistic quality of Eric Halfvarson's robustly sung Ramfis took me completely by surprise. Baritone Andrew Smith's Amonasro offered a similarly intense portrayal.

Was this a *great* performance of *Aida*? Not really, but I should confess that it was a pretty damned good one. Without doubt, the opening night performance was one of the more satisfying experiences I've had with Verdi's opera in recent years. With that thought in mind, I'd advise local opera queens who are quick to scorn the achievements of other opera companies to start pulling in their sails. Storm clouds are brewing on the horizon and the San Francisco Opera could soon find itself facing some pretty stiff competition from its professional peers in Southern California. ●

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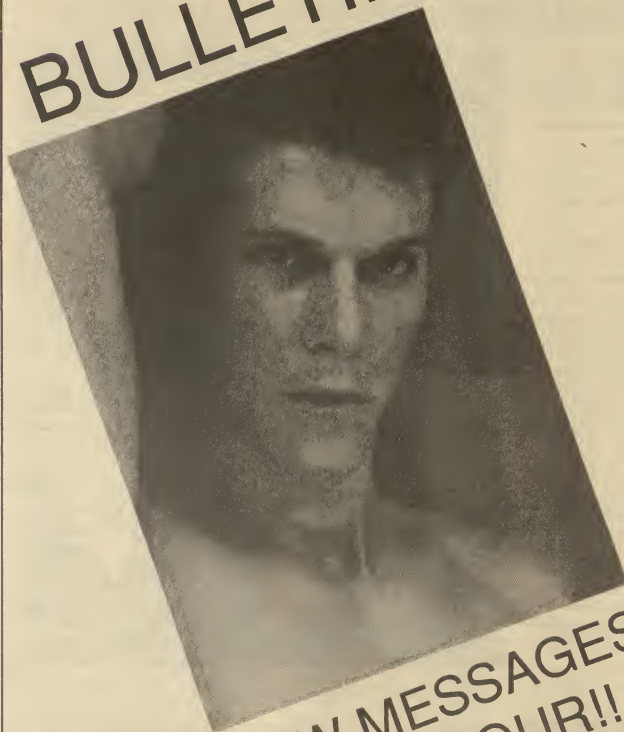
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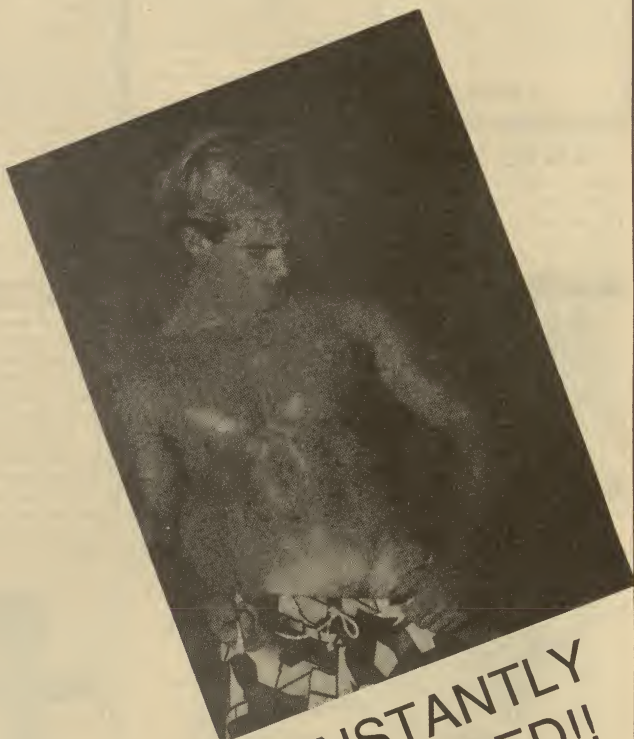
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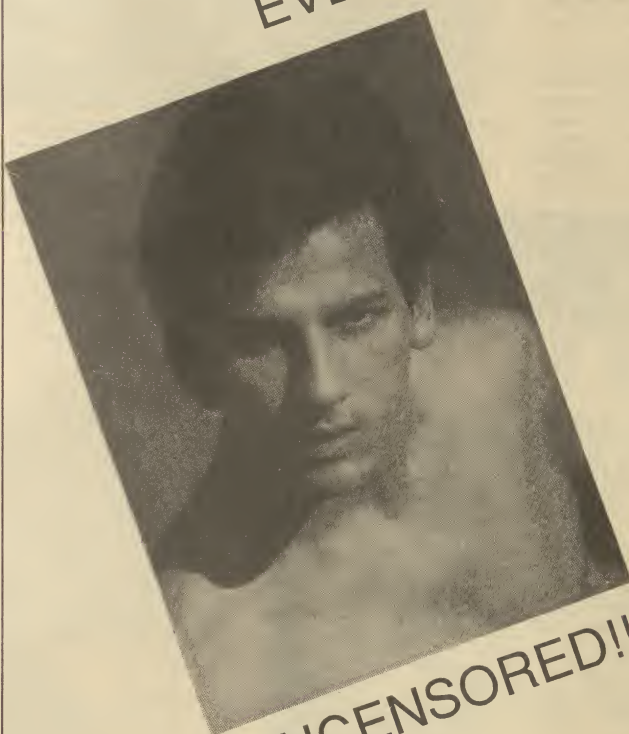
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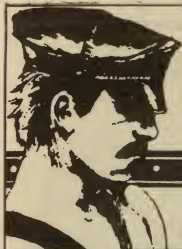
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Mr. Marcus

Riding the Dishmobile With Lots of Gas

It's not easy coming up with a halfway decent title for a column at 0430 hours after you've been celebrating the seventh birthday of a saloon. If this reaches my editrix in one piece, thank the homo-ing pigeons for taking pity on a half-wasted tripe writer.

Yes, the seventh anniversary of the S.F. Eagle is history now. This year the loyal customers were a bit more sedate in their rush to get the seventh anniversary pin Monday night, the new Eagle T-shirts Tuesday night, and the big buffet and show last night. If ever a Bartender of the Year needed a long vacation, it's David Stoll, who claims he's lucky to be alive after this year's festivities.

I don't know who was spinning the discs Monday night, but there were a lot of oldies-but-goodies on the sound system, and everyone was hell-bent on having a good time. The walls were covered with photos of last year and years before, with lots of nostalgia being batted around by the veterans.

How many of you remember what the name of that bar was before it was the Eagle? How many of you remember who the manager was when it opened? How many of you remember the first disc jockey in the place? Or the head bartender? Pay attention! There may be a quiz at the end of this column.

Last Wednesday, April 13, the second heat in the Eagle's search for Mr. Leather of S.F. took place with another bevy of hot leather men on the boards to face the inquisition of the judges: Mr. Leather of Philadelphia Steve Savage; president of the board of



The two newest contenders for Mr. S.F. Eagle Leather
(Photo: S. Martin)

Intl. Ms. Leather Sky Renfro; and a former Mr. S.F. Eagle, Glenn Terrio. Again, they had a hard decision to make, but in the finality of it all, former Leather Daddy Tom Rodgers was the winner and Ken Duff was the first runnerup. Both will compete in the finals May 6.

There's only one round left, and that's next Wednesday, April 27. Here's your last chance to compete to win \$200 in cash, round-trip airfare to Chicago, hotel accommodations, and a

stab at the Intl. Mr. Leather title. What are you hot leather men waiting for? The competition may be rough, but think of the glory, too! Not to mention the pride of representing San Francisco in Chicago!

The madness let up for a brief spell last weekend. Saturday night the California Motor Club, better known as the CMC—you know, that group that puts on the Carnival each November—celebrated their 25th anniversary. Long-time President David Sarathain gave up the gavel to the new prez, Lynn Kiefer, before a big crowd that saw the return of a gang of guys who are no longer active in the bike-club circuit. Disc jockey David "Puddles" Dysart kept the action moving with lots of nostalgic music that took you back to the days when Ed LaRue was the president, not to mention a string of other leaders of that club.

The surprise entertainment turned out to be Elvis Presley, who looked surprisingly like Pete Pettine as he appeared in *Men Behind Bars*. All the club and the new officers were introduced, including the current Mr. CMC Carnival, James Buhler. Prez. Kiefer proudly announced that Mr. Buhler will represent that club at IML in Chicago next month.

Sunday, Metropolitan Community Church celebrated their 18th, too, and again the CMC grabbed the spotlight with their annual Tax Break Run beer bust at the Eagle. Anything else that was going on was well attended, according to my source(s)!

And what awaits your eager, fun-loving personalities this weekend? Saturday morning you can ride your bike for some 500 miles with the Con-



The CMC had its cake

(Photo: S. Martin)

stantines, if you check in (with \$50) at the Watering Hole.

Tomorrow night, Friday, 22 April, the fabled Tom of Finland will be here for a beer bust and leather auction at the S.F. Eagle. The Tom of Finland Foundation Inc. is desperately trying to preserve all of Tom's work, and an exhibition of his artwork will be on hand, as well as a slide show. Tom will also be autographing his book. In addition, Mr. Drummer '87 will be there in person, Mr. Leather of San Diego '87 and Luke Daniel, Intl. Mr. Leather of '83, will be there. Don't miss this one! The fun begins at 2000 for all the beer you can drink and a chance to meet the legendary Tom of Finland in person!

Friday, too, the Iron Duke of Folsom, Tom Weber of the GDI's, will be feted at the Transfer on the occasion of his 65th. Pushy Phyllis, who is now known as Pushy Pushy Phyllis (but what former empress isn't?), will officiate.

The Gay Rescue Mission presents its S&M video festival starting this Friday, too, and running for six weeks with showtimes at



Outgoing CMC Prez David Sarathain bids farewell (Photo: Marcus)

beginning at 2200 hours. Friday, April 29, the Powerhouse also continues its search for Mr. Powerhouse, at 2200 hours.

This may sound premature, but on the weekend of the 4th of July, they're having what is billed

antique auction Sunday, May 1. It was supposed to be at the Comstock Club on Sutter, but I understand they closed their doors for good last weekend, and the natives are not happy. The \$100 per couple for the antique auction and dinner will be held somewhere else, so call 841-7245 for the location. There's a whole lot more coming your way, but I'll save it for next week.

WHEN DISH TURNS TO SHOVE

Was one bearded dude p.o'd after the beard contest at the Pilsner Inn a cuppla weeks ago? After cruising this hot carpenter for months, he was understandably miffed when said carpenter blurted: "I told you I don't go home with men shorter than me!"

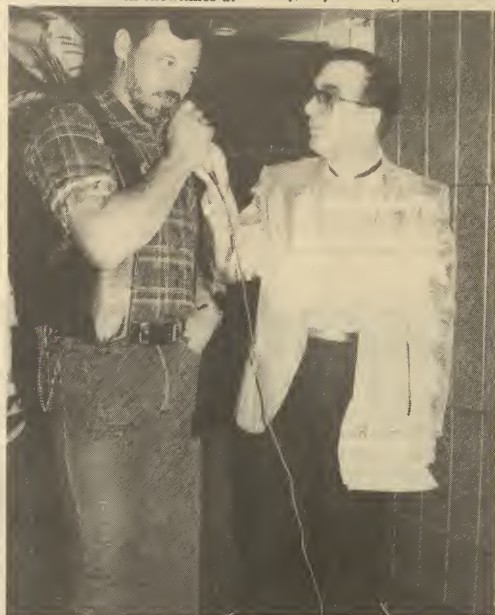
And what is this scene with Sam Carson? He never takes his cowboy hat off, according to the hundreds who know him, and last week he was seen having lunch in the Disastro with a complete stranger, hatless and smiling up a storm. I wonder if Sid knows about this? What gives (from your friends), Sammy Jo?

And congratulations are in order for Brian and Rich of Ralph K. Davies Medical Center for their recent promotions! Keep up the good work there with your patients, guys! Your patients are raving about your great attitudes!

Don't tell anyone I told you, but porn-star magnate Al Parker is about to settle down here in Mecca, and if you're thinking of standing in line, take a number. You might make it with him by the year 2005.

I had so many calls last weekend about a leather household-goods auction taking place at 466

(Continued on next page)



Tom Roller and Diamond John onstage at The Mint's Tax Day party (Photo: Rink)

1900 and 2300 at 1060 Folsom. Show times are different on weekends, so call 431-8748 in advance to be sure.

Tuesday, April 26, the gifted Arthur Evans will sign his new book for you while lecturing on "Anal Sex in Ancient Greece," beginning at 1930 at The Love That Dares Book Shop on Castro.

Wednesday is the third heat for Mr. Leather of S.F. at the Eagle,

as "The Ball Busters Bust," and the flyers blast: "Wanted: Men With Balls!" There are so many activities planned for that weekend, I can't list them all here, but you can call Robert at (907) 276-5016 for the details. I don't know him either, but that area code is in Alaska!

Jeff Mitchellcraft of the Cal Eagles and his Friends for Friends group are having an



GDIs at the Gay Community Awards

(Photo: S. Martin)

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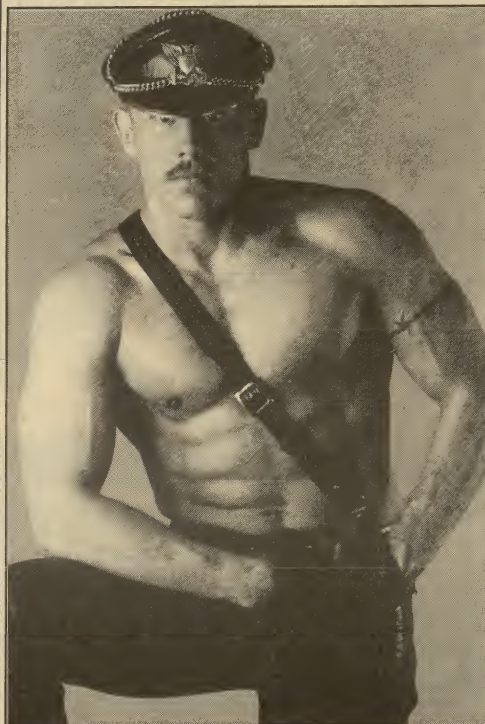
Transferred to tape from private film collection. Dozens of hunky young models, huge equipment, great blastoffs every 5 or 6 minutes! Good image, good color, soft rock music. All safe sex! Let these videos on your VCR become your favorite

home companion! Sorry, no brochures or stills on these. But look into this bargain collection. Each \$24.95 plus tax. VHS in stock, Beta made up on order. Ask for Adonis Cockplay series, ADONIS VIDEO, 369 Ellis, San Francisco 94102. (415) 474-6995. Open Noon — 6 pm daily. Upstairs over Circle J Cinema. See Hal Call. MIC/Visa OK.

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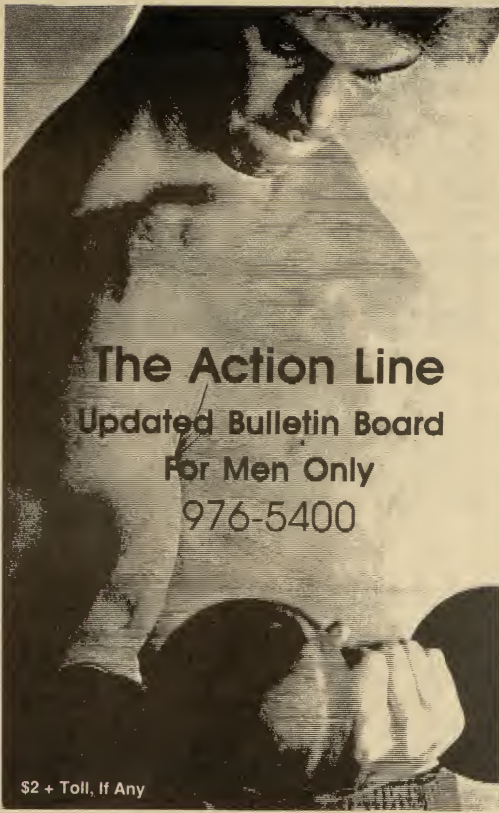


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Tom of Finland was surrounded the last time he came to town

(Photo: Rink)

(Continued from previous page)

Marcus

Linden St., beginning at 1230 hours! The sale included good quality leather, videos, photos, tools, microwave oven, stereo, silver, and antiques—all being sold to recover several months' back rent due the owner of the building. Who would ever allow their leathers to go like that? Hmmm?

As for Alex Bennett on 105.7-FM in the mornings, he chastized his fellow DJ, for making semi-

nasty gay jokes, with threats that Mister Marcus would "get him" for it! Have we met, Alex?

And finally, from the Anchor-

Don't Forget! Donate Food And Nonperishables At All Headlines

buddy Wally Poteete, a letter to the editor complimenting the people of Seattle for his two-year stint there with SAS and all the good times he had, signing the letter "Aynall Sfinkter"! And I thought Faghdad by the Bay was wild! Are you reading this, Gregg of Haight Street?

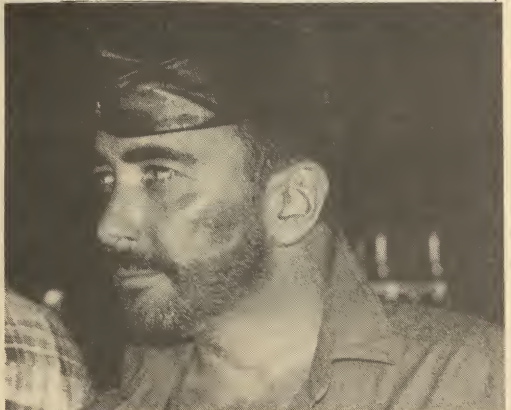
I told you I'd made my deadline, didn't I? See you, boys and girls—in the bushes, alleys, highways and byways. Keep your legs crossed and wear your rubbers!

age (Alaska) Times, culled by my

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One of the hot non-contestants at the Beard contest at the Pilsner
(Photo: Marcus)

Karl's Calendar

THURSDAY 4/21

Feathers 'n' Flesh Show, N'Touch, showtimes 10:30 p.m. and 12:14 a.m.

FRIDAY 4/22

Empress XVI Phyllis Presents a Diamond Jubilee, Tom Weber's "65th" Birthday Party, Transfer, 7 p.m., food and show.

Bobbie Callicoate Show, Kimo's, shows 9 and 11 p.m.

Constantine's Serving "Connie Dogs," S.F. Eagle patio, Friday and Saturday nights, 11 p.m.-1 a.m., \$2 (large and juicy).

SATURDAY 4/23

Sacramento Coronation, Headdress and Masque Ball, bus leaves Kimo's 4 p.m., \$35 includes coronation and round-trip bus fare, for info call 776-9151.

Bobbie Callicoate Show, Kimo's, shows 9 and 11 p.m.

Constantine's 4th Annual 500-Mile Ride, Saturday and Sunday, for info call 922-8960.

SUNDAY 4/24

Force 5 Beer Bust, S.F. Eagle, 3-6 p.m., \$7.

New Faces New Voices Talent Competition, Galleon, 3 p.m., host Joseph Taro.

TUESDAY 4/26

Tavern Guild Meeting, Kokpit, 1 p.m.

Leather Drawings, S.F. Eagle, five drawings per night starting at 9 p.m.

Ginger St. John Show, Ginger's Too, \$1.29 donation, shows 9 and 11 p.m., benefit Every Penny Counts.

WEDNESDAY 4/27

Class Acts Contest, Sutter's Mill, \$1 cover, 8 p.m., benefit Friends for Friends.

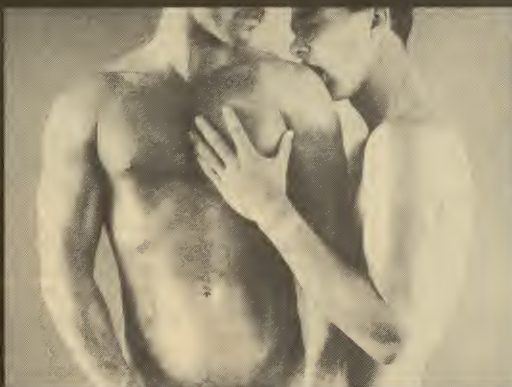
Mr. San Francisco Leather Contest, S.F. Eagle, 10 p.m. (third week).

THURSDAY 4/28

Feathers 'n' Flesh Show, N'Touch, showtimes 10:30 p.m. and 12:15 a.m.

Compiled by Diedre

"We'll be alone in the steamroom."



Call 976-RODS

TWO DOLLARS PLUS TOLL, IF ANY. CALLERS MUST BE 18 OR OVER.

Freedom Band Taps Texan As Conductor

The San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band and Twirling Corps, the oldest gay musical organization in America, has selected Jeff Foote as its new conductor. Foote, a native of Texas, is a graduate of West Texas State University with a degree in Music Education. For seven years in Houston, Foote had a highly successful competitive school band and studio teaching career. In announcing the selection, Band Manager Mark Nathan said, "We are lucky to have Jeff. His skills and talents are just what the Band needs now. His expertise will enable the Band to produce the best possible sound."

Foote thought his greatest abilities were identifying and quickly resolving individual basic skills problems, as well as providing variety in music selection.

"Our community deserves positive, quality performances, which at the same time are uplifting experiences for ourselves," said Foote. Through first-rate performances, the Band will grow bigger, stronger, and more visible. That's the way it should be."

Call For Entries

San Francisco photographers Mark I. Chester and Michael Rosen announce their sponsorship of a group show of sex-related photography. Open to all Bay Area photographers, this exhibition focuses on the topics of sex, sexuality, and eros, regardless of whether the artist's perspective has been fine art, erotica, or pornography.

Photographers of all persuasions are encouraged to submit even their most outrageous work to this show to be juried by Mark and Michael. Work chosen for the show will be displayed at 1229 Folsom St. during the month of June, and is timed to coincide with gay pride month.

A maximum of five photographs may be submitted for an entry fee of \$10, although no one will be turned away for lack of funds. For entry, work must be hand delivered on May 15 from 2 to 6 p.m. or May 16 from 5 to 7 p.m. to the exhibition location.

For entry rules, send a SASE to: 1229 Folsom St., San Francisco, CA 94103. To receive a flyer for the show or for more information, leave a message for Mark at 621-6294.

Gay Men's Chorus To Hold Auditions

The San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus will hold auditions for singers in late April. Both singing and staff positions are available. A special invitation is extended to former members of the chorus.

The S.F. Gay Men's Chorus was founded in 1978 and is the oldest gay chorus in the U.S. The chorus toured the United States in 1981 and stimulated the development of more than 50 other gay musical groups. Members joining the chorus in April will perform in the tenth anniversary concert at Louise M. Davies Hall in August with special guest stars.

For more information call 469-7323 and ask for Robert.



Jeff Foote (Photo: D. Litwin)

Join the BAGAL!

Heard the news? The Bay Area Gay and Lesbian Band (BAGAL) has formed to serve the gay communities through music. Musicians and nonmusicians are needed from throughout the entire Bay Area, for BAGAL's hope is a band rich in community diversity. Rehearsals are presently scheduled in San Jose, San Francisco, Hayward, and San Mateo on a rotating basis, Monday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Gay pride can be shown through music, so BAGAL hopes to be visible musically in all the Bay Area communities. Put some spring in your step! Join the BAGAL Band. Be a part of the gay pride activities coming in June... through music.

Further information may be obtained by writing the BAGAL Band, P.O. Box 280571, San Francisco, CA 94128-0571, or by calling (415) 558-9693.

AIDS Play, 'Warren,' at S.J. State

San Jose State University Student Mobilization Against AIDS will present a production of the critically acclaimed stage play, *Warren*, April 21-24. The central character is a young man with AIDS, and the story focuses on the love and support his family offers him.

Warren is cast with San Jose State students, and is produced by students. Michael Kearns, a gay activist in the theater and film community in Los Angeles, will direct the play.

All performances for *Warren* will be held in Sweeney Hall 100 at the corner of Seventh Street and San Carlos on the San Jose State campus. Nightly performances will begin at 8 p.m., and there will be a Sunday matinee at 4 p.m. The performances on April 21 and 23 will be ASL interpreted.

preted.

Tickets will sell for \$5 except for the opening-night performance April 21 when all tickets will be \$15. This performance is a benefit for Student Mobilization Against AIDS Tri-lingual AIDS Education Project, Student Health Advisory Committee Peer AIDS Education Program, and the Minority AIDS Project of Santa Clara Co.

There will be no advance ticket sales, but reservations will be taken by calling (408) 924-6240, and the tickets may be paid for at the door at performance time.

dis•tinction
(dis•ting•shun)

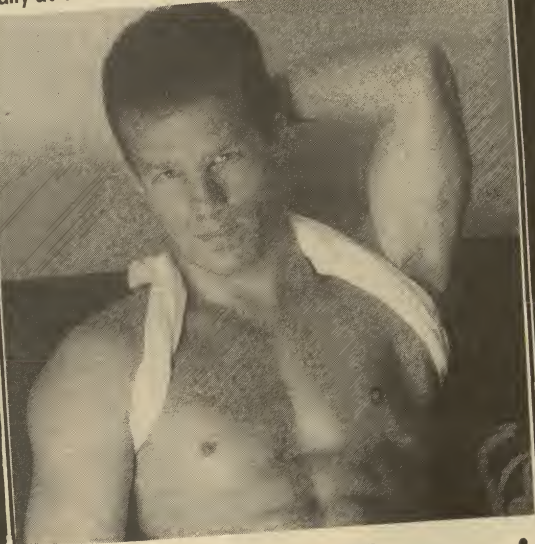
n. eminence; repute; mark of honor bestowed for merit. See: **B.A.R.**

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(Continued from page 27)

Karr

after Kramer began conducting, Commanday called him "an equally skilled conductor."

It was Jon Sims and a few other men — some of whom are still involved with the chorus — who put up flyers which attracted the 100 men who became the Gay Men's Chorus. Within several months, Kramer joined them as a singer, with Sims' intent that he become the group's conductor, and in November 1978 Kramer was so appointed. "I was involved in bringing the chorus to fruition in its first three years," he says. "And had one of the highs of my life on its 1981 national tour. What an outstanding experience!"

In 1982 he left to pursue other interests (although not all the reasons for leaving the chorus were musical). Within six months he had started the Dick Kramer Gay Men's Chorus, where he pursued a course of music closely suited to his ambition of featuring both 20th century and a greater variety of "serious" works. His recent concerts have included the successful "Made In America," featuring Ives, Barber, Thompson and Elliott Carter, and a special performance of Britten's *The Burning Fiery Furnace*. In tandem with the Contra Costa Chorus, which he also conducts, his Gay Men's Chorus has presented the Verdi Requiem and Orff's *Carmina Burana* — concerts far different yet complementary to the more popular programs favored by the S.F. Gay men's Chorus.

Just like the message he sees in *The Berlin Requiem*, a negative that can be turned to a positive. May the requiem of Kramer's last concert within the gay community lead him to music-making projects in the near future both nourishing and expansive. •

(Continued from page 26)

Rock City

"homo-lezzie" Ralph, we know she is not to be taken seriously. She is an obstacle to be worked around, a baby to be mollified and put to bed.

Although Ruby's bitterness gives *See Rock City* much of its punch, it also weakens the ending. We are waiting for her to crack — she seems on the verge throughout. Thus, Angel's final reassurance that "I'll be fine," seems meaningless. It is an answer to a question that has scarcely been raised. The audience knows, has known from the start, that Angel will come out of this okay. It is Ruby we wonder about. Will she go to pieces or will she, à la Scarlett O'Hara, fluff up her hair and begin again tomorrow?

Appearing as Ruby, Sheila Travis delivers a performance tinged with barely controlled hysteria. While this can be wearying, it is also quite appropriate for her character. She gives the appearance of sweating profusely while trying to look calm and cool, again adding to the believability of both character and the Southern locale. She looks, however, a bit young for the mother of a 19-year-old, and this weakened her credibility.

On the other hand, Myriam Eusebio in her role as Angel, barely appears 19. She is perfectly cast, one of those actors who disappears into her character and makes it wholly believable. The same can be said, to a lesser extent, of Ann Block, who plays Ralph. Her physical presence onstage is fluid and convincing. She is that more experienced woman many of us longed to know as teenagers, a very human role model to serve as an inspiration. Unfortunately, much of her dialogue was a stiff counterpoint to her physical mastery of the character. She needs to convey enthusiasm more naturally.

Too often in the course of the play, Grams, played by Bonnie Jean Kimball, became a caricature rather than a character. Spry and endearing to the point of cloying, her optimism was as extreme as Ruby's cynicism, and too often became artificial and forced. Kimball is a highly accomplished actress who would do well to tone down her act a bit in this particular vehicle.

(Continued from page 26)

Kiss

Puig, found expression in the characters of Molina and Valentin. Puig's conviction that a gay influence would humanize some of the more authoritarian aspects of leftist movements is represented in the unlikely love that springs up between the two men.

As Marsden notes, "Their mutual need creates a bond that ultimately overrides Molina's judgments about Valentin's politics or Valentin's about Molina's sexual preference. Molina creates a way for Valentin to have some solace, some peace. And Valentin comes to respect the depth of humanity in someone who is very different from him, who lives with an entirely different set of expectations. The most beautiful and sad thing for Molina," Marsden continues, "is that he really wants a husband, and he finds one in the most impossible situation."

It is difficult to know, ultimately, whether Molina and Valentin's relationship is meant to comment on politics; whether the "fabulous" movies whose plots Molina relates for escapism and surcease of dread are a gloss on his love for

The two male characters in *See Rock City* fared less well on the whole, through no fault of the actors themselves. They were essentially props, devices created to goad Ruby and Angel into action. As Luther, Angel's simple, well-meaning boyfriend, Richard Crippen delivered a fine and sensitive performance.

In the fine tradition of Stanley Kowalski, Ruby's husband Ray (Norbert Gabriel Breitzke) is a workman — in this case, a truckdriver. He is splendidly muscular and a bit rough around the edges as he struggles with his own passions and his wife's antics. Although Breitzke has his role down and under control, he failed to be convincing as either jealous husband or father. In his T-shirt and Levis, he looked as though he would be more comfortable lounging against a wall at Hibernia beach than working on the transmission of an 18 wheeler. As a 40-ish truck driver, he was too fit, too attractive, and a little too young. Perhaps it's stereotyping, but I kept expecting him to make a pass at Angel's boyfriend!

As usual, Theatre Rhinoceros has given us a professionally crafted production. Adele (*Pulp and Circumstance*) Prandini's direction is tight and well paced. There are no wasted moments, except, perhaps, for the final 90 seconds, which seemed rather rushed and uncertain. Costuming was both interesting and appropriate, particularly Ruby's colorful outfits and Grams' frumpy fashions. The set design by Andrea Stanley deserves special mention. Stanley utilized every inch of her limited space to create a fully believable and dimensional set. The lighting also contributed significantly, giving an illusion of sunshine and hot afternoons.

All in all, *See Rock City* has the potential to be one of the more memorable pieces staged at The Studio at Theatre Rhinoceros. There are a few casting problems and the closing moments need some added verve, but the premise and content of the play are right up there with the best. This is a solid work which ought to stand the test of time. Well worth going to see. •

★★★

See Rock City
The Studio at Theatre Rhinoceros
Through May 15; 861-5079

Valentin; or whether their deaths represent the exposition of their lives' most authentic motif.

In the end, Valentin is martyred for an unnamed, probably hopeless cause; yet he goes to his death enveloped in the chimerical, consoling mists of romance. Molina dies, as his movie sirens often die, tragic and noble, dying as much from love as for love; but he does so in the commission of an act of selfless bravery — as Marsden reflects, in a "tribute to Valentin's spirit."

"Suppose it were possible," writes Thomas Pynchon in his review of Gabriel Garcia Marquez's *Love in the Time of Cholera*, "not only to swear love 'forever,' but to put one's allotted stake of precious time where one's heart is?" It is precisely this possibility that Puig contemplates; and if Molina's and Valentin's "forever" is limited to a few days, that is no cause for despair. For in the end, Puig muses, laconic, paradoxical, "This dream is short, but this dream is happy." •

Kiss of the Spider Woman
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People

Jesse Jackson, I love you!
Tommy Goldsmith,
San Francisco. E22

RUNNERS WANTED for
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love centipede. Peter, 621-4284.
E19

Houseman &/or traveling
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salary. Reply with photo. Box 73,
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E18

GOURMET POTLUCKS
for accomplished cooks.
Regular & vegi smoke-free
Saturday nights. 775-6143. E16

Situation Wanted
I am looking for a housing
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from May 1st to June 16th.
Housesitting, share,
care of PWA, all acceptable
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\$100 finder's fee. E16

Cigarettes, duck tails,
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21-30 only, no drugs!
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E16

**WILD SLAVE OPENS
FOR HAIRY MASTER
AND GROUPS FOR
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TOYS, ETC. 626-3047. E16**

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18 pgs, send check or \$ order
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Hot blond, hairy chested,
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will make hot personalized
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Hot Handsome Healthy
Hunky Horny Moustached WM
Couple Early 30s Into
Safe Sucking Looking For
Hot Handsome Healthy Hung
Hunky Horny Moustached WM
Who Likes To Lay Back.
Husky and Hairy Enjoyed
But Not Required. Photo/
Phone For Action. 2215-R
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Pine-Hyde 4-11 3PM
You drk/hndsm in red car
prk'd on Pine. Me too slow
U got away—call, lv number
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Sacramento white male to meet
macho top man, hung XXX thick
and long, handsome.
Kurt,(916) 972-0411, hot. E17

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and legs. 665-4825. E16

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PROFESSIONAL & REASONABLE
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to meet hung guy 8+ any
race for safe hot time.
Call Doug 846-4597 E21

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E18

Gay Men's Sketch Class, Tue
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E16

Daddy, 30, will train
young trim boy in the art
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and discipline. Tom 647-7695.
E18

Glory Hole Hotline 621-1887
E26

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GWM, 30 yrs, 6'4", 245, gd lks.
I want GWM to help me get back
in shape. Poss. for you to live in.
Will pay for help.
(408) 354-7758 or
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Asian, boyish, 30, 5'9", 150 lbs,
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bondage/discipline. Master:
hands-on, fit, 20-40, nonsmoker.
Please discuss thru phone.
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Put a Smile on Your Face
I am not easy, I am good.
Full massage in the nude
775-7057 24 hrs.
Ron \$50 in \$65 out



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Full body massage—buns & legs
my specialty! Hot man, 6', 160#
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add \$5 for MC/VISA. Try me!

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Certified/Deep Tissue/Acupressure
Appts: 2-10 pm \$40/session
Indoor/Outdoor Massage &
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Warm space, soothing massage.
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Full-body massage by nude body-
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East Bay
Healing hands. Certified.
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FEEL GOOD
about your body!
Enjoy 90 min. oil massage.
Graduate of Body Electric.
No sex. Steve, 689-3472. E18

☆☆ Appreciative Breeders ☆☆
Only in. Roy, 593-4336 E17

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MASSAGE**
\$100 in
Blond, boyish & smooth!!!
Businessman's special: 11-3 PM.
\$75. Loc. Nob Hill.
Steve, 989-7731. E16

BODY BEAUTIFUL
Cute & butch, 27, swimmer's
build & speedo tan line.
Lt br/bl, hairy pecs.
Gives hot massage—nude.
(Gorgeous & Hung
\$40/\$50 in/out. Joe, 658-0247.
E16

B.A.R. PEOPLE & PERSONALS

Massage

Caring blk. masseur, Mr. G. Hung, uncut, sensuous, 6 ft, 180. \$30 hr. 621-3319. 41, top. After 5 pm weekdays, all day Sat., Sun. E16

STUDENT, 24, GIVES complete massage. Kyle, 861-4362, \$40/out. E16

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for yourself an erotic full-body massage by a very handsome bodybuilder. Go ahead... indulge... \$40 in/\$50 out. Daniel, 864-0788

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A superb massage done by a gifted and caring masseur will leave you feeling light, spacious, relaxed, and yet energized. And, since your energy is raised during the massage, the very nature of this experience will be sensual, erotic, and healing.

Loving hands and energy from a man who loves the male body, has a beautiful one himself (body builder), is well trained and experienced.

1 hr. \$30 in 1 1/2 hrs. \$45 in 1 hr. \$40 out 1 1/2 hrs. \$55 out

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Very good-looking and built Florida State Diving Champ, 6'1", 190#, bl/bl., certified.

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NUDE ATHLETE
KEVIN 285-6542

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Complete, Sensual.
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LET ME RUB YOU THE RIGHT WAY WITH A SENSUAL MASSAGE. IN ONLY \$40 1HR COMPLETE CALL JIM 621-2652 10AM-12AM

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by a handsome, masculine blond, 6', 190, beautifully nude muscular body, summer tan. Firm, Erotic Swedish Massage. Massage Lotion & Table, Hard to Beat It \$45 in/\$60 Out 75 mins. Mike 931-0149 24 hrs.

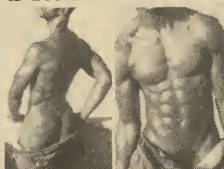
WILLING TO GIVE HIS ALL

NUDE, EROTIC MASSAGE
By Handsome Bodyworker
Call Mark 282-8963
Daily 9 am - 12 am
Body Electric Graduate

AMMA MASSAGE

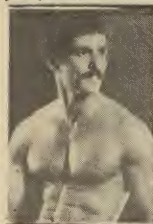
Traditional Japanese bodywork. This acupuncture massage uses no oil and is great for reducing physical and emotional stress. Treat yourself! Certified, Non Sexual. 75 minutes • \$25 John 626-1569

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for a sensual massage*in/out call Dick 285-1903

Massage



ALAN
FULL BODY
MASSAGE
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Regenerate thru pleasure. Unique, caring, sensual blend of Alpha-relaxation, Shiatsu, Visualization, slow-building pleasure peak. 90-min. TANTRA, \$35. Larry, 626-7696. E16

Allow me to touch your body to bring you into a state of relaxation and well-being. Deep tissue oil massage, certified. \$35. 552-1768. E16

VERY HOT YOUNG MAN gives you a full-body, hot-oil massage. Clean-cut, healthy and friendly. Releases all tension. Sensuous. Call Gary, 979-1165. E16

Want a deep, sensual massage by a handsome young masseur? Alex, 861-1362. 24 hours. In/out. PWA discount. E16

Hot blond stripper/swimmer. \$50 out. Nick, 431-4859. E16

Great exceptional massage! Ted, CMT, 626-1925, 11am-11pm E16

E. BAY MASSAGE
CHIROPRACTIC STUDENT,
CERT. MASSAGE
Dalton, 832-3024. E16

S. Mateo. In \$40. 570-5216. E16

Attain Glowing Cherry
JELLOHOOD!!!
18th & Noe. Certified.
A mere \$30. Jim, 864-2430. E16

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Oil Massage, in the nude plus a complete erotic ending. Mike, handsome 6' - 165 - 35 yrs. Beautiful, athletic build. 45 in - 60 out. 863-6947

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Deep tissue work for men. Clean cut, Discreet & safe. Phillip, 864-5566

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WITH MASSAGE
NYC LIC#9739 ROBERT 626-0667

Young Oriental masseur,
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\$25/1 hr. IN - shower avail.
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Magnificent massage for stress,
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Eclectic, East Bay.
Greg, 547-1364. E16

Healthful & Sensual Touch
BERKELEY MASSEUR
Greg, 841-8753, Blond Jock E16

Full-Body Relaxing
ORIENTAL

massage by nude yg gdlk Asian.
All ages welcome. Bob,
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Area. 24 hrs. E16

Young athlete, 160, 6 ft., 30" waist, 42" chest, offers Swedish
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Day massage, \$15. 771-8042. E19

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Contra Costa Co. - East Bay
Swedish Massage, \$50, 90 min.
Outcalls Concord. 689-7764. E21

Complete Massage
Chuck, 861-5129. \$30/in, \$35/out E19

Hot oil massage by bodybuilder.
Gino, 861-0294 E19

8" UNCUT ITALIAN
24 hrs, 553-8172, in/out E16

Release • Relax • Energize
EXPERT MASSAGE
Neil Lasky, CMT 647-0591 E21

SUPERB MASSAGE
from Charlie, instructor at
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\$35/hr. • \$45/1 1/2 hr.
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Great Nude Massage
I am a V-Handsome Nordic Man
Swimmer, 88 8" Cut Blonde/Blu
6' 185. Especially Like Small,
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40/in 50/out 931-3263 Ron 24 hrs.

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SENSUAL MASSAGE
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Certified Asian Masseuse
Relaxing \$40/\$50 441-2149 E21

Be pampered for 90 mins.
My trained hands and hot oil
will gently carry you to total
satisfaction. Deluxe apt.,
Castro area. Only \$35. 24 hrs.
Larry, 621-8560 in. E17

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Great tan, super body.
Fine, strong hands. Out, \$40.
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JEFF GIBSON
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Excellent massage by competitive
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experienced hands have worked
such events as the Olympics and
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Member AMTA.

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HOT NORDIC
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6'1" 200 lbs. muscular
BODYBUILDER
Erotic massage
HUNG 9" THICK
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A NATURAL MAN
Gives an erotic massage
Hndsm, musc, masculine, hung.
Strong but sensitive, healthy.
Andy 24 hrs. (415) 864-6097 E19

Complete mass. by hndsmg guy.
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9 AM - 9 PM \$35.00
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Exotic massage by
two smooth young Asians
offer double the pleasure
you will never forget.
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Nude massage in Davis by
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916-756-8120 Norv \$30 E18

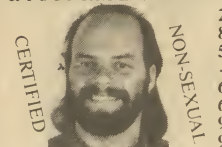
NUDE HOT HANDSOME
\$40 282-3733 24 Hours E17

All Men 50+. Best \$25 Massage.
Great! Nick 552-5059. E20



Beautiful Massage
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FULLBODY SHIATSU & FOOT REFLEXOLOGY



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\$30/60 min. • \$40/80 min. • IN/OUT
Certified Hypnotherapy now available

ALL THE EXTRAS!
Extra Nice, Extra Hung guy
rubs you the right way. \$35 up.
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Hard Sensual Nude Massage
by Versatile Eurasian
\$30 in/\$40 out 776-5749 E17

Handsome Man - Hot Massage
Chest & buns special, profsn! 7
yr. exp. 9-9 Nick 626-6210 E18

REAL HOT MAN
5'11", 170#, blk hair, blue eyes
gdlkg., BB, massage. Call Jim
564-7796 • Certified • E16

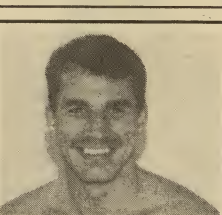
Seriously Sensual Nude
Pro-Oil Swed/Reflexology
will satisfy 861-0843 E19

Erotic nude handsome
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FULL BODY MASSAGE
Clean, private, quiet
\$25 Steven 431-0468 E16

Deep Muscle Massage by
except-handsome young guy
very clean cut & friendly
Call Luke 431-9080 E17

SENSUOUS MASSAGE
By Goodlooking Blond
Grad Student
Complete/Full-Body
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By Appointment
William • 922-2106

TOM ADVENTURESOME

Build tight, muscular & hung.
Very friendly gentlemen
over 30 preferred.
Sensual massage in the buff.
\$45 in/\$60 out 24 hrs.

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No B.S.! Huge, long, thick
tool with big, shaved low-
hangers swinging heavy
from healthy, hunky body.
33, hot and extremely
handsome, big nipples...
When you want the best.

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B.A.R. PEOPLE & PERSONALS

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New in town—straight trainer available for physique fantasy—5'8½", 18"A, 31W", 48"C, 185 lbs. FOR YOUR MUSCLE PLEASURE
BRIAN 285-1794

SERIOUS MUSCLE

Comp. BB new in town, 26 yr. 5'10", 210 lbs., 19"A, 49"C 31"W, 18"C, catalonian complexion. Hung \$80/In \$100/out Vince **788-2467**

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BEAUTIFUL 9", TIGHT MUSCULAR BODY, VERY HANDSOME. \$100. DAVE. E16

Dirty Roman/punk Trojan Dyrine of rite—Mohawk 5'6" 130 lbs smooth hot well def. hung fun & safe Shane of Sprite 548-3138 E16

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Safe and fun
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Big fat dick, 621-1260, tops. E16

Rugged, hndsm guy, 621-5125. E16

ROUGH OR ROMANTIC

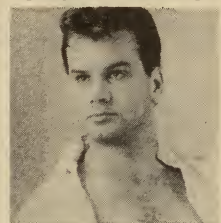
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Well-hung, bearded man for hire. 36, 6'2", 175, hairy body. 431-5974, daytime best. E16

Daddy's Boy, 26
Loves to please men 40+.
Jim, 864-1397 Out calls E16

Dirty, Greasy Levis
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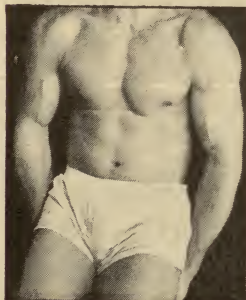
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Will Travel • In/Out
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S P A N K I N G
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9" UNCUT

XXX thick. Hot gypsy man from Hungary. Top but versatile 21 y/o. Aggressive and safe. Athletic, hairy body. Friendly and fun! Karchi, (415) 863-8015. E16



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\$100
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Uncut blk 30, \$50 in/\$60 out
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863-4079 E17

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6'2", 175#, hung top, 24 hrs, safe
\$50/\$60 Brian 864-8549 E16

Try me out for great and relaxing
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Handsome top, laid-back Dad, 9"
X-thick, 30, 6'1", 170#, B/B, safe,
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Hot, hunky, butch,
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J/O exhib. Visual fantasy only, hot
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The Original;

FUN TIME BOY!!

21, Tall Blue eyed Blonde
Sexy, Playful & Very Friendly
XXX Hung & Mmm Mmm Buns!
ROBIN
673-5457 • \$75+

THE STALLION Bpr # 337-3985

6'4", 195#, hairy X-Army sgt.
Chuck 431-1579 E18

**LEATHER FFANTASY
S/M PLAYROOM**
Tall, hot top enjoys FFA,
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CHRISTOPHER
90m/\$100, 255-1018 (in SF) E17

FF Teddy—Tiny hands to
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Handsome Hairy Tall Big Balls
Hung 24 Hrs Axel 863-0252 E21

Horse-hung punk jock stud, 6'4",
Aryan looks. 285-4319. E17

8" UNCUT ITALIAN
24 hrs, 553-8172, in/out E16

Crewcut biker—J/O buddy—5'9"
—145#—8 cut—smooth—30y—
callback required—928-5826—
\$50 in/\$60 out—Ken E19

BI-BLOND CYCLIST
30 YR, 6', 170 LB, SAFE.
\$80 in/\$100 out.
Joshua, 552-1270. E17

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bid/grn: 5'7"/135 lbs:
at your discretion: hairy/hung.
Pierre 921-8187. E17

HUNG STUD
Thick and Big
GUS (415)469-7221

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Very Aggressive, Discreet
Your Fantasy My Talent
Lots of Toys & Camcorder
Healthy, Staying That Way
Available for In & Out Calls
A Man Who Loves His Work

JACK

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Mirrored S of Market Playroom

AKA: SEXY STUD

6' 175 lbs BRN/BLU WASHBOARD
Very handsome student with a
tight well defined muscular build
and a True thick sexy nine-incher!

**\$100 in / out
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DOUBLE TROUBLE

PAUL MUSCLE
50"c, 19"a, 31"w. 771-4094. E16

Hot, super hung, boyish blond,
22, safe, a lot of fun. Tony,
673-2936. E16

HOT HAWAIIAN HUNK
Shawn—25 Dark Tan Smooth
and Muscular
for Massage, JO or stripper
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ASIAN FANTASY
Good lkg College Students
415-626-8235 • \$50 E16

Gentle Creative S/M—Tease/
Torture Fun. Kinky J/O—\$50.
No Fr/ Gr/ FF! Ian 621-0420 E16

22, 6', DOMINANT
Well built top w/mohawk
hung, smooth, safe out/in
will train 648-7260 Ken E20

Titwork!! Ian - \$50 621-0420 E16

Hndsm Hung Masc Rolé Playing
Game rm w/s FF 863-6536/24 hrs E17

STOCKY IRISH DUDE
Thick Cut 8+ Digs French
30, 5'10", 195# Dan 861-7931 E16

Creative Black Model
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I lay back. Extra hung.
Extra thick. Washbrd abds.
Jonny \$60. 552-8774 E16

24 HR DADDY
Big Butt Nipples
Tall Hairy Chad 861-7014 E27

ITALIAN DADDY
Hung and Hairy
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★ ★ YNG. STUD ★ ★

24, 6', 150#, 9"x6½"
Brown Hr., Blue Eyes
HAIRY CHEST

Smooth Defined Body
24 Hrs. In/Out

★ ★ "RICK" ★ ★
★ ★ (415) 861-0512 ★ ★

Models & Escorts



239-8419

24 Hours

Hot 'n' Sexy

David 282-3733 \$60

For your

pleasure...

Sexy, clean-cut student.
Smooth, fit & tan.

19 yrs. blue/brown, 5'11", 150#
Young, healthy & safe

DALE 928-4896

★ RUGGED LOOKING ★

Bodybuilder Muscles

6'1", 230#, Blond, 19"a, 52"c

Glenn (415) 563-5176

"If you're thinking of
calling someone, why
not call the best?"



SCOTT 771-0552

ABSOLUTELY SAFE AND SOPHISTICATED S&M

Short, cleancut bodybuilder, intel-
ligent, safe, sane, and absolutely dis-
creet. Sensitive and patient educator
—do some exploration in a safe
place. Expert in sensual genital tor-
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lation to gradually stretch your limits.
I don't just assume a dominant
"role," I am sadistic, dominant, and
no amateur.

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EX-CHIPPENDALE STRIPPER

Italian stud, extra handsome,
well built B/B. Always on top.
6ft. 195lbs. long, thick, visuals,
bodywork. Mental/physical dom.
Satisfaction assured. Call Rex at
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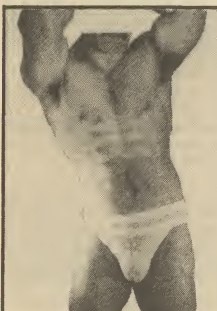
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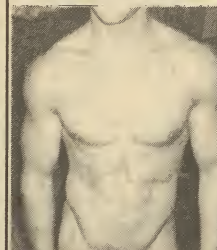
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BAY AREA REPORTER SPORTS & FITNESS

The Olympics: Let's Deal With the Legislators

by Hal Herkenhoff

COMMENTARY

One of the hottest gay issues right now is the controversy about the use of the word "Olympic" by the gay community. This debate began with the now-Gay Games when it attempted to use the term for a sports event. The protracted legal battles, eventually ending at the Supreme Court, caused the issue to lose some association with the Gay Games, as Games I and II have since been held, and Gay Games III, two years away, promises every chance for success.

The issue has been one of civil rights and the use of a word that is called generic in the gay community and is called a trademark by the U.S. Olympic Committee, the governing body for all American teams and athletes at the Olympics since 1896, a sports even modeled, just as the Gay Games, after ancient Greece's Olympics.

But our concentration has been steadily focused on the argument that the word "Olympic" is a generic term. Unfortunately for that viewpoint, the Congress was worried about unsuccessful American efforts in amateur athletes at the Olympic level and awarded the commercial U.S. Olympic Committee a trademark for the term "Olympic" in order to develop athletes.

X-TA-C Sponsors Beginning Volleyball

Weekly volleyball for beginners will start on Sunday, April 17, in Golden Gate Park, thanks to the organizing efforts of X-TA-C, the 100-member gay and lesbian cross-country ski club based in San Francisco.

Called "Volleyball-for-All," the weekly open volleyball games are open to both gays and lesbians. Beginners are especially welcome. Membership in X-TA-C is not required.

Balls, nets, and equipment will be provided by X-TA-C, and participants are invited to bring any equipment they have, even frisbees and barbecues for a picnic.

The nets will be set up next to the Arboretum in Golden Gate Park by noon each Sunday, beginning April 17. Play will continue until approximately 5 p.m. X-TA-C expects to sponsor the program through September. Only heavy rain would cancel a Sunday.

There aren't any fees, but donations for equipment are appreciated, and membership in the club (\$10 per year) is also available. Look for the rainbow flag and the X-TA-C sign.

Volunteers are invited to sign up to "host" specific Sundays through the season. Call X-TA-C's 24-hour taped hotline at (415) 995-2736 for more information.

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Every week in
Bay Area Reporter.



Gay Athletic Games I

Sports is a very big business in the United States. Actually, it is the U.S. sports entertainment industry. Pro sports, most notably the National Football League (NFL), have turned a bouncing ball into a massive, big budget entertainment phenomenon that can totally dominate American life for a time, such as when the Super Bowl is broadcast over television and radio. It only took the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics to show the world how to market and produce an international event, sports or not, in the American way.

The participation of American businesses began in part because of the success of the Eastern European government-sponsored teams and athletes. By the mid-1970s, the American public and

sports press were asking what we could do to solve this disparity of assistance. Thus we got the tricky Amateur Sports Act of 1978.

The Gay Games in 1986 were enormously successful. The future of this athletic and cultural event is certainly bright. The issue is a matter of principle now. The Gay Games will survive either way.

However, the current political debate is highly visible, and the gay community is on its own in this matter. Minority Board of Supervisors members are not unanimous in their support of the gay community's position, and the public is reportedly 70 percent in favor of the Olympics being staged in the Bay Area sometime in the near future, either 1996 or 2000.

Mary Dunlap, lawyer for the

Gay Games, has given us a heroic effort in her attempts to convince both federal judges and the Supreme Court that the word "Olympic" is generic, available for use by all and especially for a non-profit corporation, such as the Gay Games.

So what is the strategy now? Even with a supportive Mayor Art Agnos, the city ballot may soon have an Olympics vote, which may be supported by business communities all over the Bay Area and is already supported by most voters.

Attempting to set a roadblock here for the USOC does not appear to have much chance for success or meaningful results.

At issue is the granting of a trademark using the word "Olympic." If that word were to

become generic again, the gay community would no longer need to pursue its opposition to USOC activities.

It is time to direct our efforts towards amending the Amateur Sports Act, by encouraging our congressional delegation to take action so that we are not put in this position of opposing our local area's business community and causing disharmony among our political allies.

Agnos has been loyal to us in our time of need, but the Sports Act must be amended now, and that means we must convince our Congresswomen Nancy Pelosi and Barbara Boxer and Sens. Alan Cranston and Pete Wilson to permit other organizations to use the word "Olympic" for the inspiration of their participants.

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This Week's Schedules

TENNIS

(Games at Peixotto Playground, 15th St., two blocks west of Castro St.)

Saturday, April 23:

9:00 A.M.

Silver Fox vs. White Swallow

11:30 A.M.

Roto Rooter vs. The Galleon

Sunday, April 24

9:00 A.M.

Schmidt & Schmidt vs. Leticias

11:30 A.M.

Community Rentals vs. Hartford Properties

SOFTBALL

(This week's games at Jackson Field, 17th St. at Arkansas)

Sunday, April 24

9:30 A.M.

Cafe Sn. Marcos vs. Superstar Video (Field 1)

Rawhide Men vs. Phone Booth (Field 2)

11:00 A.M.

Rainbow Roos vs. The Mint (Field 1)

S.F. Eagle vs. Amelia's (Field 2)

12:30 P.M.

Rawhide Women vs. Superstar Video (Field 1)

Village vs. Pilsner Inn (Field 2)

2:00 P.M.

The Bear vs. Cassidy's (Field 1)

Endup vs. The Galleon (Field 2)

3:30 P.M.

Cassidy's vs. Pendulum (Field 1)

Kokpit vs. Village (Field 2)

POOL

Attack of the Interdivisionals

by Lauren Ward

Just five weeks remain in the S.F. Pool Association's Spring Season before the playoffs begin, and they're designed to provide some hot competition for the contenders.

Last week we played the first of three interdivisional contests, matching teams of equal ranking, and while Division 3 and 4's scores were close, there were some lopsided results in 1 and 2.

The league's last two undefeated teams faced off at the DeLuxe, where the Ducks rode the White Swallow Wave to an

11-5 victory.

Keeping pace with the Ducks were divisional rivals Palace Be-Boppers, 11-5 winners over the Eagle Creek Chaos IV.

Division 1's Deluxeditions overcame the Special Effects, 10-6, and the Alamo Square Killer Beez stung Imelda San Marcos, 14-2.

The top three teams in each division go on to post-season play, and several good teams are going to be sweating it out.

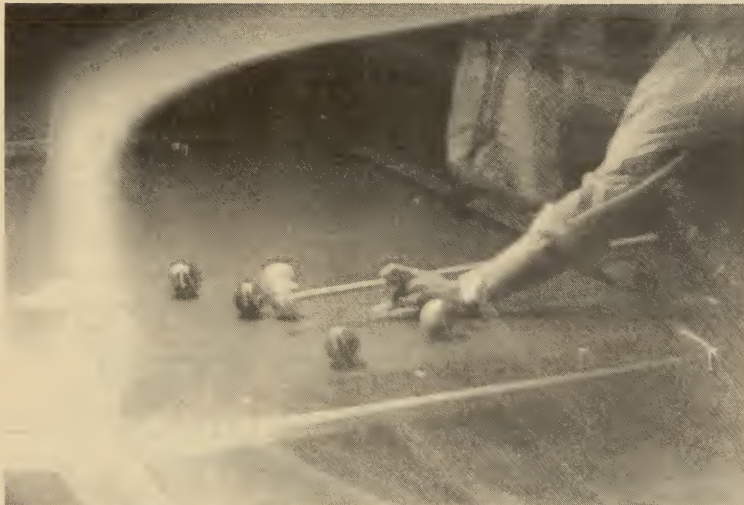
In Division 1 just three games separate second place from fourth, and the Wave's seven-

game lead is not insurmountable.

Division 2's DeLuxe Ducks are setting the pace for the league at 101/27 with three players in the top five. The Palace Be-Boppers (95/33) are capable of snatching the lead away when the two teams meet at season's end. The race for the third playoff spot has three contenders, with just six games separating third from sixth place.

Division 3's Watering Holes 'R Us have a comfortable 17-game lead, but just four games separate the next three teams, and the Detour Destroyers can't

(Continued on page 44)



(Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

SOFTBALL

Pendulum Edges Endup 6-5 in Showdown Game

by Hal Herkenhoff

The two top teams of 1987, the Endup and the Pendulum Pirates, met last Sunday at Lang Field in a rematch of last year's championship series. The rivalry is still on, and the Pirates won the first of the two 1988 regular season games, 6-5, by scoring three times in the bottom of the sixth.

Helped along by Wes Jackson's outstanding play in left field, the Pendulum was able to strand numerous Endup runners on base to send the defending champions to their second defeat in as many weeks. The talented Endup made a good attempt in the seventh to catch the Pirates, but will now have to wait another week for their first 1988 win. Everyone interested in the rematch of these teams will now have to wait until Sunday, June 5, at Lang Field (Gough and Turk streets).

In Division 2, Cafe San Marcos leapfrogged over the Rainbow Roos in the standings by holding Amelia's, 12-2. The Roos came down to reality from their exciting win over the defending men's champs and lost to the defending women's champs, the Super Star Video Beaches, 15-14. After giving up a huge lead in the first inning, they came roaring back only to fall short. These two teams also have a rematch scheduled for Sunday, July 17.

S.F. Eagle won its second in a row—and moved into a three-way tie for second in the Division 2 race—with a solid-hitting win over the Mint. The Beaches lost a well-played game to Uncle Bert's Place.

The Phone Booth remained undefeated in Division 3 games, helped by the Pilsner Inn's win over the Rawhide Men. Cassidy's moved up into the winning column by edging the Rawhide Women, 8-6.

Next week's schedule is at Jackson Field (17th Street at Arkansas in the Potrero district) and will offer many highlights. At 9:30 a.m. the Beaches take on

Cafe San Marcos, then follow it up at 12:30 against the Rawhide Women. The Bear versus Cassidy's at 2 p.m. or the Endup vs. Galleon on the other field will offer a variety of the talent.

Uncle Bert's Place will have their work cut out when they face the tough Pilsner Penguins at 12:30 p.m., and then the equally tough Kokpit at 3:30. Division 1 should look pretty different in a week, so stay tuned.

For information on participation in the Gay Softball League, there will be a general meeting of Team San Francisco at Amelia's (Valencia near 17th Street) on Saturday, May 21, at which representatives of the Gay Softball League will be present to offer information and explanations on participation within the GSL for all men and women of any ability level.

DIVISION 1

Pendulum	3-0
Galleon	1-1
Pilsner Inn	1-1
Kokpit	1-1
Uncle Bert's	1-1
Endup	0-2

DIVISION 2

Cafe San Marcos	2-0
Rainbow Roos	2-1
S.F. Eagle	2-1
Amelia's	2-1
Super Star Video	1-2
The Mint	0-3

DIVISION 3

Phone Booth	2-0
Rawhide Men	2-1
Cassidy's	1-1
Rawhide Women	0-2
The Bear	0-3

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

S.F. Eagle 24/The Mint 4
Kokpit 14/Galleon 4
Pilsner Inn 22/Rawhide Men 2
Phone Booth 21/The Bear 1
Super Star Video 15/Rainbow Roos 14
Cassidy's 8/Rawhide Women 6
Cafe San Marcos 12/Amelia's 2
Pendulum 6/Endup 5
Uncle Bert's 10/Super Star Video 2

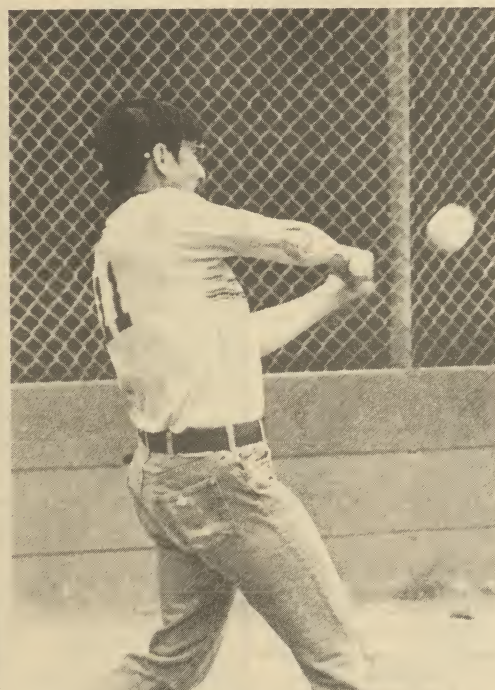
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Less from the Kokpit hits a good one
(Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

He Stars in 2 Japantown Leagues

Hunter Bauman Stalks Those Pins

by Richard McPherson

As the Community Leagues at Japantown Bowl start to wind down their Winter Season, Hunter Bauman was the big scoring achiever the week of April 1-8. Bauman (177 avg.) shot 234, 203/593 in the Monday League, and 206, 203, 216 for a 625 in the Hawaii League.

Other 200 scorers: Dan Burley (168 avg.) 201, 205/593; Mike Reist (153) 216; Rick Aguilar (145) 212; D. Philips (170) 211; Brett Martin (148) 207; Bob Bryan (156) 202/575. Special congrats to Jason Parana (129 avg.) on a 202 game.

In the first week of the Summer League at Park Bowl, Ken Sayles (175 avg.) had high game with a 245. He was followed, the week of April 4-6, by Roy Thorson (199) 233 and Michael Haggett (166) 228.

Honorable mention (160 avg. and under): Steven Sams (147) 205; David Kriete (149) 203; and Ken DeLong (156) 200. (Thursday TGL scores unavailable at press time.)

Sara Lewinstein (173 avg.) had the high game in the S.F. Women's Business League for Sunday, April 3, with a 221. Virginia Brusco (166) had a 202, and Debbie Carmona (190) a 201. This is Debbie's last few weeks in the S.F. bowling scene. She moved down the Peninsula a while ago, and is just finishing out this season before joining San Jose area leagues. Our loss, their gain. Good luck, Debbie. We'll miss you.

In listing the season end's first-place team for the Thursday Tavern Guild at Park Bowl it was reported that Play With It, Ltd. was the winning team. Belden 22 was the actual first-place team, beating Play with It, Ltd. in the



(Photo: S. Martin)

playoffs. Congratulations, Belden 22: Eugene Gales, Butch Gillum, Jimmy Olson, and Mark Platis.

The IGBO newsletter is still being circulated in the Tavern Guild Leagues at Park Bowl. If you find a copy, read it. It will put you in touch with what's happening across the U.S. and Canada in the gay world of bowling. You'll even see local bowlers mentioned throughout the issue. IGBO is the largest gay sports organization in the world, and all bowlers in the gay leagues at Park Bowl are members.

The Community Leagues at Japantown, by the way, were dropped from IGBO membership for not paying dues (which are cheap). All the gay leagues

(Continued on next page)

JAPTOWN BOWL COMMUNITY LEAGUES BOWLING

Team Standings

MONDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE

	W	L
1. Brand X	32½	15½
2. Missing Persons	31	17
3. Stationaires	27	21
4. Five Easy Pieces	26½	21½
5. No Shows	26	22
6. Split Sisters	24	24
7. SF Band Foundation	22½	25½
8. Rumlbers	22	26
9. Bench and Bar	21	27
10. Debutantes	19½	28½
11. Barb's Team	18	30
12. Loft In Space	17	31

TUESDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE

	W	L
1. Tender Vittles	32	16
2. Striketees	29	19
3. Giraffe	28	20
4. Swaying Palms	28	20
5. Bobby Pins	26	22
6. Pinups	24½	23½
7. Chuckie's Angels	24½	23½
8. Still Hoping	23	25
9. A.I.M. Sluts	23	25
10. Twin Peaks	21	27
11. Radcliff's Rebels	19	29
12. Firecrackers	7	41

WEDNESDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE

	W	L
1. Mother's Lode	34	10
2. Rawhd Balls 'n Hand	28	16
3. Parakeet Lounge	27	17
4. Play With It Ltd	26	18
5. E Z Pick Up	25	19
6. Ball Doctors	25	19
7. Kingpin Honey's	25	19
8. SF Band & Tea Corp	25	19
9. 14 Karat Jewels	22	22
10. A E F Maulers	21	23
11. Helen Beds	18½	21½
12. Lois Laners	18	26
13. Pilsner Tux 'N' Tails	8½	31½
14. More Hits thn Misses	0	44

THURSDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE

	W	L
1. Hot 'N' Hunky	23	5
2. Galleon	16	12
3. Odd Balls	14	10
4. Pendulum Bombers	14	10
5. Big Eddie's Girls	13	15
6. Old Ricks	13	15
7. Wooden Horse	12	16
8. Pendulum #1	10	18
9. SF Sentinel	9	19
10. Liquor Express	8	12

HAWAII VACATION LEAGUE

	W	L
1. Double Trouble	27½	9½
2. Moby Dick Wailers	24	16
3. Urasis Dragon	23	13
4. Hi Bound	22	18
5. Bowl R Brains	21	19
6. Eruptions	21	15
7. Haleakala Hookers	20	16
8. Hard Times	19	21
9. Earth Mothers	19	17
10. Lois't Lane	17½	22½
11. Bulldogettes	15	25
12. Easy Leis	15	25
13. Tropical Teeezers	14	26
14. Ball Busters	14	22

SUNDAY RENO LEAGUE

	W	L
1. Remember Us?	27	13
2. Phabulaz 4	26	14
3. Jackpot	25	15
4. S Pin-Anybody?	24	16
5. Tidy Bowlers	24	16
6. Bouncing Balls	24	16
7. Sassy	23	17
8. Firebird Sweets	23	17
9. 4 Many Reasons	22	18
10. Diner Dogs	22	18
11. Bob's Big Boys	19	21
12. Alley Cats	19	21
13. Great Balls of Fire	19	21
14. Beef Strokinofts	19	21
15. Pin Us Down	15	25
16. Natalie's Deadwoods	14	26
17. Strike Force	13	27
18. Bad Lucky Boys	0	40

(It is the responsibility of the bowling establishment to supply the B.A.R. with league standing sheets.)

PARK BOWL TAVERN GUILD LEAGUES

Team Standings

TAVERN GUILD TRIOS

	W	L
1. Gough Balls	4	0
2. SF Eagle	3	1
3. Best of Breed	3	1
4. Fart Blossoms	3	1
5. Team 13	3	1
6. Capricorn Coffees	3	1
7. Team 2	3	1
8. Team 18	3	1
9. Inches	3	1
10. Bobbie Pins	3	1
11. Pee wee's Playhouse	3	1
12. Cafe Sn Marcos	1	3
13. Park Bowl	1	3
14. Play With It Ltd	1	3
15. Pilsner Pin Pals	1	3
16. Team 1	1	3
17. Team 14	1	3
18. Team 8	1	3
19. Unholy Rollers	1	3
20. Stud Puppets	1	3
21. Give Me Griets	1	3
22. Main Course	0	4

WEDNESDAY TAVERN GUILD LEAGUE

	W	L
1. Rolo's	4	0
2. Play With It, Ltd	4	0
3. 9 Eyes Only	4	0
4. Team 12	3	1
5. Pilsner #1	3	1
6. Team 1	3	1
7. Pilsner Pntlss Sisters	3	1
8. Team 8	3	1
9. The Bear	3	1
10. Team 16	2	2
11. Rams and Ewe	2	2
12. Schmidt & Schmidt	1	3
13. Park Bowl	1	3
14. Team 11	1	3
15. Pilsner EZ Pick Up	1	3
16. Revenge of Pilsnerds	1	3
17. D.K.'s Unmentnables	1	3
18. Pendulum	0	4
19. Team 4	0	4

20. Ram's Head Bar 0 4

THURSDAY TAVERN GUILD LEAGUE

	W	L
1. Team 2	4	1
2. Styles & Staymens	4	0
3. All Da Rite Stuff	3	1
4. Team 4	3	1
5. Team 6	2	2
6. Trax Trash	2	2
7. Inches	2	2
8. Trax	2	2
9. Team 12	2	2
10. No Jackie	2	2
11. Pilsner 4 Play	1	3
12. Team 10	1	3
13. SF Eagle	0	4
14. Is It Over Yet?	0	4

S.F. WOMEN'S BUSINESS LEAGUE

	W	L
1. Mona Tong Realty	65	27
2. Maud's Squad	54	38
3. Bowldykes	54	38
4. Better Natural	53	39
5. Cafe Commons	51½	40½
6. Awards by Chris	50½	41½
7. Faenza/White	48	44
8. Park Bowl	47	45
9. Express Comp. Sup.	47	45
10. Olive Oil's	47	45
11. Artemis	45	47
12. Geraldine's Caterers	45	47
13. Sidney's Pinheads	44	48
14. About Paper Plus	42½	49½
15. Amelia's	36½	55½
16. Cassidy's Cabinettes	35	57
17. Francois Coffee Hse.	32	60
18. Brite Shine Janit	31	61

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TENNIS

Here on Memorial Day Weekend

U.S. Gay Open Net Tourney Coming



There's nothing like watching a tennis match while basking in the sun.

(Photo: PhotoGraphics/Darlene)

The 8th annual U.S. Gay Open (USGO) National Tennis Tournament will take place during the Memorial Day weekend, May 28-30, at the UC Berkeley and City College of San Francisco tennis facilities. This is a gay event hosted and sponsored by the San Francisco Gay Tennis Federation and is open to gay and lesbian participants. Past tournaments have attracted top-notch players (as well as a few weekend hackers)

from all over the country, producing some exciting tennis.

This year's tournament will be no less exciting and will consist of match play in men's open singles and doubles, women's open singles and doubles, men's B singles, women's 35-and-over singles, and men's 40-and-over singles. All first-round losers in singles play will be placed in a consolation tournament. The draw is limited to a first-come,

first-served basis, so enter early. The deadline for entries is May 8.

All semifinal and final rounds will be played on Monday, May 30, at UC Berkeley. Housing for out-of-town players and their guests will be provided by GTF members. The entry fee for this year's event, which also includes a Sunday night banquet, is \$35 for singles and \$20 per doubles team. As in past tournaments, spectators and friends are always

welcome.

The GTF has been promoting gay tennis in San Francisco since 1980 and today boasts an active membership of over 150 men and women. Other GTF activities include team tennis, challenge ladder competition, various club tournaments, as well as weekend play throughout the year. This October the GTF will send its top 30 players to Los Angeles to defend its title against teams from Los Angeles and San Diego in the

third annual California Cup, a three-way challenge match. Other events in the gay tennis circuit this year will be major tournaments in San Diego (4th of July weekend) and Los Angeles (Labor Day weekend).

For more information on this year's USGO or the GTF, call Jeff Greenfield at (415) 285-4000 or (408) 268-4651, or write to the San Francisco GTF at 2215-R Market St., Suite 109, San Francisco 94114.

Bowling

(Continued from previous page)

there are run by JTown management, so it was their decision not to enter the leagues for membership. JTown bowlers should ask why.

Your suggestions, please. I am focusing too much attention, I am told, on individual bowling achievements and not writing enough about team efforts. This is a touchy area. Until now, my

criteria has been to only mention those teams shooting outstanding team scores. Unlike other gay sports, which have only one league, there are many, many bowling leagues: five at Park and six at JTown. If I start mentioning a tight competition between two teams in one league, for instance, I would be challenged to write about the same in another league. And on, and on, and on.

Team competitions do deserve press. Give me your ideas on how we can do this fairly.

Pool

(Continued from page 42)

be counted out yet.

Division 4 is a picture of parity. The Park Bowl Pockets hold a slim, two-game lead over the Castro Station Cruisers. The Detour Deforce, the Overpass L'Equipe, and Badlands Who are all tied for third; the Bear Bottoms are one back at sixth, and the Pendulum Pirates are just one back at seventh. Out of 128 games played so far, just two games separate third from seventh.

We're having a terrific turnout for the Eight-Ball Championship

qualifying trail, with a current total of 54 entrants.

E.Z. and Larry Fyvie won spots last Thursday; Larry benefitted from an 8-ball break in the final at the Overpass. Saturday it was Gene Miller and Tony Rios joining the list of tournament finalists.

The remaining hopefuls nervously await the outcome of the last three opportunities: Thursday at DeLuxe, Saturday at Alamo Square, and the last chance at Peg's Place April 28. Again, we thank Golden Brands and Miller Lite for their generous sponsorship.

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Kick AIDS

Soccer Star Pele, Liza Minnelli Join Forces to Fight Deadly Disease

NEW YORK—Soccer stars from around the world, united under the banner of "Kick AIDS," will lend their names and talent to help raise funds for AIDS research, it was recently announced. The concept of involving the world's most popular sport in the fight against a worldwide medical scourge has been spearheaded by soccer legend Pele and entertainment superstar Liza Minnelli, both of whom serve as Kick AIDS board members.

A series of four gala games, matching the greatest names of recent years against local opponents, will kick off April 22 when the Kick AIDS All-Stars, with players such as Brazil's Pele, Italy's Paolo Rossi, Brazil's Carlos Alberto, the Netherlands' Ruud Krol, and Northern Ireland's Pat Jennings line up against a Japan Select team in Tokyo's new, 55,000-seat, domed stadium. The Kick AIDS All-Star will be coached by Argentina's Carlos Bilardo, reigning World Cup champion head coach, and captained by Pele.

Other games in the 1988 worldwide series are planned for Harare (Zimbabwe), Paris, and Los Angeles. Dates and game details will be sponsored by Fuji Television and Sharp.

"We know that soccer's popularity around the world will contribute greatly to AIDS research," said Pele and Minnelli in a joint statement. "We hope that the visibility our Kick AIDS games will achieve will help the world to focus on the desperate need for funds to help eradicate the AIDS epidemic. We are both very happy that so many superstars of soccer have eagerly agreed to the request for participation. These games will be something for everyone to remember."

Under the Kick AIDS concept, money raised by the games through ticket sales, television rights, and merchandising rights will be channeled locally to programs dealing primarily with children and young adults.

Other players who have endorsed the Kick AIDS concept and are expected to play in Japan are Jose Altafini, George Best, Trevor Brooking, Luciano Castellini, Eusebio, Kevin Keegan, Bernard Lacombe, Johan Neeskens, Bjorn Nordqvist, Johnny Rep, Jomo Sono, Marius Tresor, Bruce Wilson, and Renato Zaccarelli.

—PR Newswire

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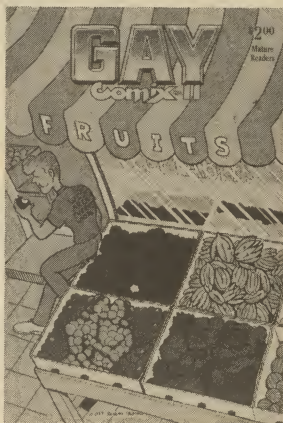
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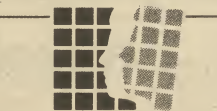
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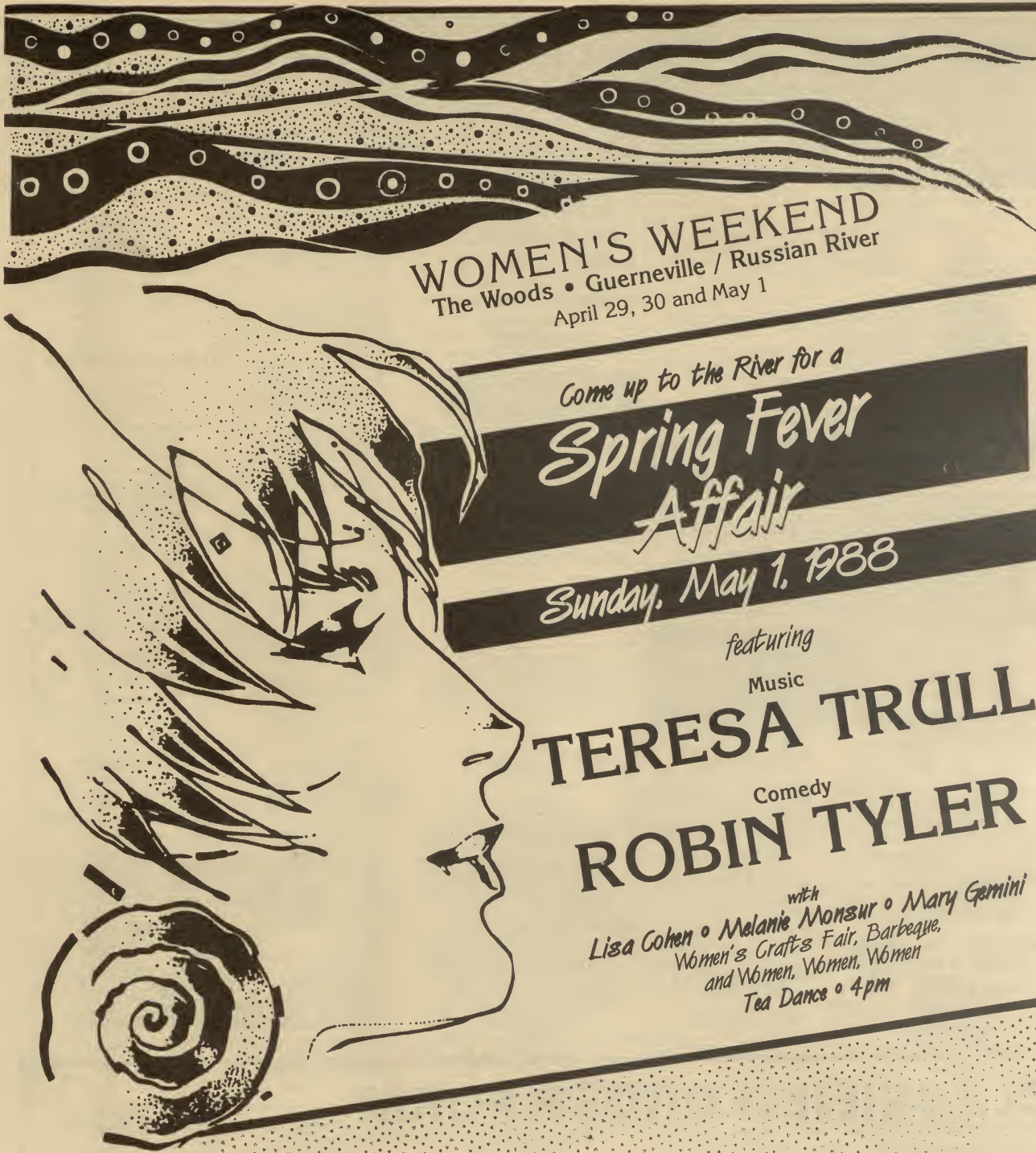
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